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WAR ON TERRORISM

Staying for the short term

Trump instructs military to begin planning for withdrawal from Syria

BY KAREN DEYOUNG, JOSH DAWSEY
AND PAUL SONNE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has instructed military leaders to prepare to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria but has not set a date for them to do so, according to a senior administration official.

In a meeting with top national security officials Tuesday, Trump stressed that U.S. troops can be involved in current training tasks for local forces to ensure security in areas liberated from Islamic State, the official said.

But the president said the U.S. mission would not extend beyond the destruction of ISIS, and that he expects other countries, particularly wealthy Arab states in the region, to pick up the task of paying for reconstruction of stabilized areas, including sending their own troops, if necessary.

SEE SYRIA ON PAGE 6

Members of 5th Special Forces Group conduct weapons training during counter-ISIS operations at Al-Tanf Garrison in southern Syria in 2017.

Jacob Connor/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

MLK called 'apostle of nonviolence' on 50th anniversary of assassination

BY ERRIN HAINES WHACK, ADRIAN SAINZ
AND KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The daughter of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. remembered him as "the apostle of nonviolence" as admirers marked the 50th anniversary of his assassination Wednesday with marches, speeches and quiet reflection.

The Rev. Bernice A. King recalled her father as a civil rights leader and great orator whose message of peaceful protest was still vital decades later.

"We decided to start this day remembering the apostle of nonviolence," she said during a ceremon-

ny to award the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize held at the King Center in Atlanta.

In Memphis, where King died, hundreds of people bundled in hats and coats gathered early for a march led by the same sanitation workers union whose low pay King had come to protest when he was shot.

Dixie Spencer, president of the Bolivar Hardeman County (Tenn.) branch of the NAACP, said remembrances of King's death should be a call to action. "We know what he worked hard for, we know what he died for, so we just want to keep the dream going," Spencer said. "We just want to make sure that we don't lose the gains that we have made."

SEE MLK ON PAGE 9



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

People gather in Memphis, Tenn., on Wednesday to remember the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated in the city.

EUROPE

US will boost military aid for Baltic states

By CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The White House announced Tuesday that the United States would boost its alliance with the Baltic states through an infusion of more than \$170 million in military aid as the region looks to fend off potential Russian aggression.

But earlier Tuesday, it was uncertain whether the Baltics leaders would get such reassurance during a free-wheeling luncheon discussion with President Donald Trump in which he meandered from proposing that the military guard the U.S.-Mexican border to bashing tech giant Amazon and his former presidential opponent, Hillary Clinton.

By an afternoon joint news conference with Presidents Dalia Grybauskaite, of Lithuania; Raimonds Vejonis, of Latvia; and Kersti Kaljulaid, of Estonia, a more scripted Trump touted strong support of the Baltic states.

"We are with [the Baltic states]; we are friends and we are allies," Trump said from the East Room while flanked by the Baltic leaders. "The Baltic republics can trust the United States will remain a strong, proud and loyal friend and ally."

The White House on Tuesday said the United States would boost its Baltic defense and security cooperation with nearly \$100 million to procure large-caliber ammunition and more than \$70 million in training and equipment programs to build the capacity of the national-level military or security forces of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The United States will also continue its efforts to improve defense and security infrastructure in the Baltic region, strengthen Baltic national resilience efforts and

build defense capacity through security assistance programs such as the Foreign Military Financing and International Military Education and Training programs, or IMET, the White House said.

The Baltic states have received about \$3.5 million annually through the IMET program that has allowed 150 students to attend training through U.S. military academies, the White House said.

This year, in addition, more than 5,000 U.S. troops will join multinational forces in exercises, the White House said in a statement. Also, the United States will work to aid Baltic energy sector improvements, boost student exchange programs and provide \$3 million in aid to fend off disinformation campaigns.

"These are just some of the many wonderful opportunities we can seize together," Trump said in detailing some of the efforts.

The Baltic leaders of the Baltic states had come prepared to ask Trump for military aid to defend against Russian aggression and lauded the U.S. role in NATO.

"This is about real friendship, about real cooperation between our region and the United States," Grybauskaite said.

Following a closed-door meeting with the Baltic leaders, Trump, during a working lunch with them, also touched on issues including trade with China, hundreds of Honduran residents marching through Mexico, and the job security of Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Scott Pruitt.

For 18 minutes, the leaders sat "stoically and largely expressionless" as Trump spoke on various concerns not related to the Baltics, according to a White House news pool report. Trump was flanked by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and outgoing Na-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Baltic leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House on Tuesday. The White House said it will boost its Baltic defense and security cooperation with \$170 million in military aid.

tional Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, among others.

Trump did, however, praise the Baltic leaders and said he's been tough on Russia, comments he reiterated during Tuesday's joint news conference.

"We want to be able, if possible, ideally, we would like to get along with Russia; maybe we will, maybe we won't," the president said. "Probably nobody's been tougher to Russia than Donald Trump."

"If we go along with Russia that would be a good thing, not a bad thing. And just about everybody agrees to that, except very stupid people."

Tuesday's meeting comes at a time of enormous tension between the West and Russia. Dozens of Russian diplomats have been expelled from more than 20 countries in response to a nerve agent attack on a former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the United Kingdom.

In the Baltics, uncertainty has clouded Trump's motives with regards to Russia. Even as the United States increases its military presence in Europe despite threats of reducing its NATO support, Trump's rhetoric toward Russia and President Vladimir Putin has been conciliatory — a source of consternation among some allies.

Grybauskaite said Tuesday that the group discussed — behind closed doors — the importance of the United States in NATO.

"We expect together with the United States to go ahead with deep reforms of NATO," she said. "Without the United States, this is not possible. About 80 percent of spending is coming to NATO from the United States. ... We are behind and with you."

Stars and Stripes reporter John Vandiver contributed to this story.
grisales@stripes.com
Twitter: @grisales

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MILITARY

AF Reserve extends some airmen's duty

BY JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

Air Force Reserve pilots, maintainers, space operators and cyber specialists who want to quit the service will have to stay in uniform for at least six months under a plan to address critical skills shortages.

The involuntary service commitment is to ensure that the Air Force Reserve meets recruiting and end-strength goals, according to a memo on the policy that went into effect Sunday.

Airmen will be forced to stay only if they voluntarily reassign to the Inactive Ready Reserve, volunteer to separate or be discharged, or will retire before Sept. 30, the Air Force Reserve Command said in a statement Tuesday.

"This is not a stop-loss, but merely an extension of service for six months while we transition to onboarding Citizen Airmen and most importantly, the success of the mission supporting the Nation's defense," the statement said.

Airmen whose reassignments, discharges or retirements were approved prior to April 1 are not affected, according to the memo published on the Air Force amn/mco/snc Facebook page the day before the policy took



JASON ROBERTSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

An Air Force Reserve pilot flies a C-17 Globemaster III into position for refueling over the Pacific Ocean during Talisman Saber drills in 2015.

effect.

Airmen who are transferring to an active-duty component, have reached high-year tenure or are on conditional release to the Air National Guard are also unaffected.

Those who are being involuntarily separated or discharged from service will not be retained.

America's improving job market means more opportunities for people in the private sector, the command said in its statement.

"To compete with these new opportunities there are recruitment, retention and relocation benefits as some of the compensation options available to Reserve Citizen Airmen," it said.

Other retention incentives include a pathway for airmen to commission as officers, and career advice, the statement said.

"Our purpose is to retain as many experienced Reserve Citizen Airmen as possible through the end of the fiscal year to provide seamless integration of duties in accomplishing our mission to compete, deter and win," the statement said. "The Air Force Reserve is committed to building our future leaders and preserving a lethal force for the defense of our nation."

bolinger.james@stripes.com
Twitter: @bolinger2004

Airman's death ruled homicide

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The stabbing death of an airman last week at Andersen Air Force Base was homicide, Guam's chief medical examiner said Wednesday.

Airman 1st Class Bradley Hale, 20, who was deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., was found unresponsive at a temporary lodging facility and declared dead at 3 a.m. on March 27, the Air Force said.

An airman, who has not been charged or identified, was arrested after a knife was found at the scene. He was "read his rights and placed in pretrial confinement on suspicion of Article 118 (Murder or Manslaughter)," the Air Force said.

Dr. Aurelio Espinola, chief medical examiner in Guam, said there were three fatal wounds to Hale's neck along with numerous superficial cuts.

Espinola, who did not perform the autopsy, said he was given the autopsy report by the Air Force.

The Air Force is still investigating the death and has not disclosed information about the autopsy or the airman in custody.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
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MILITARY

4 Marines feared dead after CH-53E helo crashes in Calif.

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps launched an investigation into a helicopter crash believed to have killed four crewmembers during a routine training mission in southern California near the Mexican border, Marine officials said Wednesday.

A CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopter crashed Tuesday about 2:35 p.m. local time outside the border town of El Centro, Calif., with the crewmembers aboard, according to a statement by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. The crew was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, just north of San Diego.

Maj. Morgan Frazer, a spokesman for the unit, said additional details about the crash were not available Wednesday morning. He did not say whether the Marines in the helicopter had been confirmed killed or whether their families had been notified. The Pentagon typically withholds identification of fallen troops until 24 hours after next-of-kin notification.

Marine officials said it was too

early to determine what caused Tuesday's crash.

The CH-53E, often deployed aboard amphibious assault ships, is the military's largest, heaviest and most powerful helicopter, according to its manufacturer, Sikorsky. The aircraft can carry massive loads, according to the Marine Corps, including a 26,000-pound light armored vehicle, 16 tons of cargo or a force of combat-loaded Marines to lead an assault.

But the aging platform has faced problems, especially in training, in recent years. The crash on Tuesday appears to be the deadliest CH-53 incident since a crash off the coast of Hawaii in 2016 killed 12 Marines during a nighttime training flight. The Marines ultimately ruled that crash was the result of pilot error, leading to two of the massive aircraft colliding in the air.

Nonetheless, the Super Stallion fleet was described as "inadequate" in November by Marine Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder, the service's deputy commandant for aviation. He said only 37 percent of the Marines' 143 CH-53s were airworthy.

The Super Stallion fleet is due to be upgraded to new CH-53K models known as King Stallions in the coming years. The Marine Corps has said it intends to buy 200 of the new, more powerful models, also produced by Sikorsky.

The crash Tuesday followed another Marine aviation crash in Africa.

The Marine Corps reported an AV-8B Harrier attack jet crashed just after takeoff from Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport, which includes the U.S. military's Horn of Africa post known as Camp Lemonnier.

The Harrier pilot, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 162 and embarked aboard the USS *Iwo Jima*, was listed in stable condition while being evaluated at Camp Lemonnier's expeditionary medical facility, according to a Navy statement.

There were no reports of injuries to personnel on the ground or damage to the infrastructure at the airport. The cause of the crash is under investigation, the statement said.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: CDicksteinDC

US, S. Korea cancel Marine exercise due to bad weather

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea canceled plans to conduct a Marine amphibious assault exercise as part of joint war games this week due to bad weather, the combined Forces Command said Wednesday.

The announcement comes days after the allies began annual military drills known as Foal Eagle amid a diplomatic push with North Korea that has sharply eased tensions on the divided peninsula.

The allies are keeping this year's exercises low-key due to the developing detente with the North after months of saber rattling and missile tests as it made progress in its nuclear weapons program.

The U.S.-led command said the changes to the Ssangyong exercises, which are part of Foal Eagle, were due to bad weather.

The assault exercise, which evokes memories of the World War II invasion of Normandy, had been scheduled for Thursday.

"U.S. and (South Korean) leadership canceled the amphibious landing portion of the training exercise ... after weather assessments indicated unsafe landing conditions for servicemembers," the CFC said in a press release.

Participating units in the air and sea portions will continue training as planned, it said, adding the routine drills are held twice a year to build and maintain fundamental military readiness.

"This was a good call by the on-scene commanders, who must balance readiness and risk — even in a training environment," said Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of the CFC and U.S. Forces Korea.

Seoul and Washington agreed to delay the springtime exercises until after the Olympics and Paralympics, which were held in February and March in the South Korean town of Pyeongchang.

The allies resumed the field-training drills Sunday with about 11,500 U.S. troops and 290,000 South Korean troops expected to participate. Foal Eagle is due to last about a month, half the duration last year.

A computer-simulated exercise known as Key Resolve is due to begin on April 23 and will last about two weeks, officials said.

About 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are based in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

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MILITARY

Suit seeks USAF change on religious speech

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Oscar Rodriguez wanted an apology from the Air Force for cutting him off from giving a speech that mentioned God.

A retired senior master sergeant, Rodriguez had been invited by Master Sgt. Charles Roberson to speak while the flag was folded during Roberson's retirement ceremony at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., two years ago.

Instead, Rodriguez was forcibly removed from the ceremony as he shouted the words of a speech that the Air Force says was against regulation at the time.

The Air Force never apologized and now Rodriguez, along with Roberson, who's also retired, are suing the service for alleged violations of their civil rights.

The two veterans are plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed Monday on their behalf by First Liberty Institute, a conservative religious-freedom organization based in Plano, Texas.

"No one should be assaulted for saying the word 'God' on an Air Force base," said Hiram Sasser, general counsel for First Liberty, in a statement. "Certainly our United States Airmen are strong enough to be exposed to the word

"God" at a retirement ceremony."

The lawsuit asks the court for a judgment declaring that the Air Force violated Rodriguez's and Roberson's free-speech rights, free exercise of religion and due process, and rights against unreasonable search and seizure.

It also wants the court to require the Air Force to follow the looser interpretation of what kinds of speeches are allowed at flag-folding ceremonies — revised after the Travis incident — and allow Rodriguez to continue to perform his speech at retirement ceremonies and other events where he's invited to do so. The plaintiffs are seeking unspecified damages and attorney's fees.

The incident drew national attention, and members of Congress demanded the Air Force investigate what happened. The service determined in September 2016 that Rodriguez was not removed because of the religious content of his speech. Rather, the service said he was forcibly escorted from the ceremony because he was using an unauthorized flag-folding script and had a history of misconduct that had led the squadron commander to bar him from speaking at the event.

Rodriguez intended to recite his own flag-folding speech, one that touches on religion. "This is what



Courtesy of firstliberty.org

A lawsuit filed Monday alleges the Air Force violated the religious liberty of Oscar Rodriguez, above, and a fellow former airman at a 2016 retirement ceremony at Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

we fight for, and if necessary to touch the hand of God in her defense, the charge that we accept as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines is a noble one ..." the written speech said, according to the lawsuit, which was filed in U.S. district court in Washington.

In 2005, the Air Force adopted an official flag-folding script that struck out religious references and focused on the flag's history and its significance in the service.

Rodriguez was told that Rodriguez could attend the ceremony but was not welcome to give his

speech, according to the lawsuit. He told Rodriguez that despite "the potential tension," he still wanted Rodriguez to give his speech, according to the lawsuit.

A video of Roberson's retirement ceremony, posted online by First Liberty at youtube.com/watch?v=8r1tVuymdsg, shows Rodriguez stand up at the front of the room behind the Honor Guard as the music plays and they begin to unfold the flag. A uniformed airman immediately approaches and appears to speak to him. Rodriguez doesn't budge and begins to shout out his speech

as several noncommissioned officers step in and push him out of view of the camera. His voice trails off, and the ceremony eventually continues.

"That the Air Force would do this to myself, as it's my retirement, I was very embarrassed and humiliated in front of all my family and friends," Roberson said in an online video posted by First Liberty.

In June 2016, First Liberty demanded the Air Force apologize to Rodriguez and admit wrongdoing. The Air Force never did, but that same month, it released a statement saying that "personnel may use a flag-folding ceremony script that has religious references at their retirement ceremonies" since they are personal in nature.

Mikey Weinstein, founder and president of the advocacy group the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, said the Air Force statement contradicts a decade-old Air Force regulation that specifically states the official script "is the only one that may be used" at flag-folding ceremonies on or off an installation.

But given that they relaxed the requirement, the First Liberty lawsuit "is moot," Weinstein said.

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MILITARY

Syria: No timetable for withdrawal has been set

FROM FRONT PAGE

In a statement Wednesday, the White House said the military mission to eradicate ISIS in Syria is coming to a "rapid end" but offered no timetable for withdrawal.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the U.S. and its partners are committed to eliminating ISIS pockets that still operate in Syria.

Trump on Tuesday had repeated his desire to quickly "get out" of Syria, even as his top commander for the Middle East outlined the need for a continuing military presence there.

Trump said at a White House news conference that "I want to get out. I want to bring our troops back home."

The U.S., he said, had gotten "nothing out of \$7 trillion [spent] in the Middle East over the last 17 years," a calculation that apparently included the Afghanistan war against the Taliban in South Asia, where he last year approved a U.S. troop increase.

"So it's time. It's time. We were very successful against ISIS," Trump said. "But sometimes it's time to come back home, and we're thinking about that very seriously, OK?"

Trump has used the \$7 trillion figure many times, including during his campaign, although numerous experts put the figure at about half that, beginning in Afghanistan in 2001 and continuing through U.S. military operations in Pakistan, Iraq and Syria. The figure also would include substantial costs tied to veterans' care and disability benefits, and war-related domestic and diplomatic security measures.

Many military officials were taken aback by Trump's stated in-



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

A U.S. soldier walks on a newly installed position near the tense front line between the U.S.-backed Syrian Manbij Military Council and Turkish-backed fighters in Manbij, northern Syria, on Wednesday.

tent, first mentioned last week, to withdraw from Syria. In a speech ostensibly devoted to his domestic infrastructure plans, Trump told a rally in Ohio on Thursday that U.S. forces would "be coming out of Syria, like, very soon."

On Tuesday, speaking at the U.S. Institute of Peace, Gen. Joseph Votel, head of U.S. Central Command, said, "A lot of very good military progress has been made over the last couple of years, but the hard part, I think, is in front of us." Upcoming efforts, he said, include the military's role in "stabilizing [Syria], consolidating gains" and "addressing long-term issues of reconstruction" after the defeat of ISIS.

Votel, along with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, also has repeatedly said in recent months that U.S. troops would be staying in Syria for the foreseeable future to guarantee stability and a political resolution to the civil war, which initially created space for ISIS to advance.

There are about 2,000 U.S. troops there, advising and assisting local proxy forces and directing U.S. airstrikes against ISIS forces. Trump described that mission as "close to 100 percent" accomplished, while Votel said that "well over 90 percent" of Syria had been "liberated" from the militants, even as "the situation continues to become more and more complex" and "other underlying challenges" become

more apparent.

Among those challenges are the need to stabilize areas cleared of militants to prevent their reappearance, to forge a political solution that will end Syria's civil war without ceding power to Russia and Iran, and resolving U.S. difficulties with neighboring Turkey.

According to State Department coalition envoy Brett McGurk, fighting against ISIS in Syria is ongoing in two areas close to the Iraqi border, one east of Shaddadi and the other in the far southeast at Bukamal. The latter has been the site of most recent U.S. airstrikes in Syria.

The effort against the remaining militants has been slowed on the ground, Votel acknowledged, by the departure of members of the principal U.S. proxy, the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces. Many of the Syrian Kurdish fighters have left their U.S.-backed units in the southeast to head to Afrin in northwest Syria, where their compatriots are fighting against Turkey and its proxy, the rebel Free Syrian Army.

"What this means for us," Votel said, "is that we're going to have to look at the ways that we keep pressure on ISIS and continue to develop mechanisms on the ground that help us de-escalate the situation" in Afrin, "so that [it] can be addressed by discussion and diplomacy as opposed to fighting."

Afghan air force criticized after strike kills civilians

BY DAN LAMOTHE
AND SAYED SALAHUDDIN
The Washington Post

KABUL — The Afghan military faced a wave of criticism Tuesday as citizens, human rights groups and government officials took stock of an airstrike carried out by the Afghan air force in the northern province of Kunduz, killing dozens of people.

A spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Defense, Gen. Mohammad Radmanesh, said Afghan helicopters attacked a Taliban stronghold in a location that was being used as a training camp for the group in Dashti Archi district, near Kunduz city and the Tajikistan border. Foreign fighters from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were among the people killed in the strike, the general added.

Other Afghan officials disputed that point. Abdullah Qarlol, a senator from the district, said the Afghan military struck the Akhundzada Gojor madrasa, or religious school, during a graduation ceremony. Several hundred people were present at the time, and those killed included both civilians and Taliban members, he said.

"What I know and have heard is that 200 people have been killed and wounded, both civilians who were studying there and armed Taliban," the senator said.

Monday's airstrike underscores a potential pitfall in the latest U.S. strategy in the 16-year war in Afghanistan, which calls for significant investment in the Afghan air force.

The confusion and carnage after Monday's strike was enough for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to launch

an investigation. The mission called reports about the airstrikes "disturbing" and said Tuesday in a tweet that it had a human rights team on the ground researching the strike.

Saifullo Amiri, a member of the Kunduz provincial council, said that there may have been Taliban members present when the strike occurred, but many more civilians also were there. Religious scholars and students had gathered from nine districts in Kunduz province, and others had come from Badakhshan province, he said.

The U.S. military was not involved in the strike, U.S. and Afghan military officials said. The United States has been training Afghans for years to fly both armed helicopters and small planes armed with bombs, and in some cases Afghans are carrying out airstrikes without U.S. involvement. U.S. and Afghan officials said that the Afghan military is concerned about civilian casualties and takes precautions to avoid them, but some continue to occur.

The U.S.-led military coalition and the Afghan army have sought to characterize the Afghan air force as on the rise. On March 22, it dropped its first laser-guided bomb, using an A-29 attack plane to strike a Taliban target in western Farah province, U.S. and Afghan military officials said.

It was not clear what kind of helicopters the Afghans used in the strike. It was carried out by the Afghan National Army's 209th Corps, which has headquarters to the west of Dashti Archi district, outside the city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Acting VA head sends video message to agency employees

BY NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — New acting Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie addressed VA employees Wednesday in his first public message since President Donald Trump appointed him to the post last week.

In a three-minute video, Wilkie describes his "customer service" philosophy for the agency in an attempt to refocus employees. Wilkie, 55, is taking over during a period of unrest after infighting between VA leaders led to the ouster of former VA Secretary David Shulkin.

"Customer service must start with each other — not talking at each other, but with each other



Wilkie

across all offices, barriers and across all compartments," Wilkie said. "If we don't listen to each other, we won't be able to listen to our veterans and their families."

In the video, Wilkie notes, "I do not know how long I will be privileged to serve as the acting secretary."

Trump announced March 28 that Shulkin was no longer VA secretary and Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, the White House physician, was the president's nominee

to take over as agency chief. Along with the announcement, Trump said Wilkie would serve as acting secretary until Jackson is confirmed by the Senate. Wilkie previously worked as undersecretary of personnel and readiness for the Defense Department.

That decision has come under scrutiny in recent days.

In tapping Wilkie, Trump bypassed VA Deputy Secretary Tom Bowman. Federal law gives a president broad authority to temporarily fill an agency job if the officeholder "dies, resigns, or is otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of office." The law doesn't explicitly state whether it applies when someone is fired.

While the White House con-

tends Shulkin resigned, Shulkin — outspoken since his dismissal — said he was fired and never submitted a resignation, nor was one requested.

On Tuesday, the large veterans organization AMVETS sent a letter to Trump, urging him to remove Wilkie from the job and allow Bowman to take over as VA chief. In addition to the legal questions, AMVETS was concerned Wilkie's lack of experience with the VA would slow progress there.

After Wilkie's video message Tuesday, AMVETS Executive Director Joe Chenely said the group stood behind the letter that they sent to Trump. He also said he sent a note to Wilkie "letting him know our position is about

veterans, not him."

"We are glad we reached out to the VA's 350,000 employees first thing," Chenely said. "Morale is not good right now, so it is important they know the acting secretary is thinking about them."

In the video, Wilkie describes his military background. He's the son of an Army artillery commander and he served as an officer in the Navy and Air Force before working as a senior leader at the Pentagon under former secretaries of defense Robert Gates and Donald Rumsfeld.

"Being with you today is the culmination of a lifetime of watching those who have borne the battle," Wilkie said.

Wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

NATION



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is at the center of swirling ethics questions.

EPA chief gets warning, support from White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump offered a measured gesture of support for Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Scott Pruitt, but those words of encouragement also came with a White House warning about the ethical questions surrounding his travel spending and ties to Washington lobbyists.

"I hope he's going to be great," Trump told reporters Tuesday, declining to reiterate publicly his private praise for Pruitt's work.

In a phone call Monday, Trump told the EPA chief that "we've got your back" and urged him to "keep his head up" and "keep fighting," according to two administration officials. Trump's call was quickly followed by one from chief of staff John Kelly, who laid out the White House's displeasure over being caught blindsided by some of the ethical problems raised, according to two other officials.

All of the officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations publicly.

Pruitt has come under intense scrutiny for his use of a Capitol Hill condominium owned by the wife of prominent Washington lobbyist Steven Hart, whose firm represents fossil fuel companies. An agency ethics official at the EPA has insisted that Pruitt's lease didn't violate federal ethics rules.

A memo signed by Kevin Minoli contends that Pruitt's \$50-a-night rental payments constitute a fair market rate. Pruitt's lease, however, required him to pay just for nights he occupied the unit. Pruitt actually paid a total of \$6,100 over the six-month period he leased the condo, an average of about \$1,000 a month.

But current rental listings for two-bedroom apartments in the neighborhood show they typically go for far more than what Pruitt paid. A two-bedroom townhome on the same block as the one leased by Pruitt was advertised for rent on Monday at \$3,750 a month.

Records show that while Pruitt was living in the condo, he met in his EPA office with a lobbyist from Hart's firm and two executives from an energy company seeking to scuttle tighter pollution standards for coal-fired power plants. EPA also granted a favorable ruling to a pipeline company represented by Hart's firm.

On Tuesday, The Atlantic reported that Pruitt had also bypassed the White House to give big raises to two young aides he had brought with him to the EPA from Oklahoma.

Two Republicans representing left-leaning South Florida districts, Reps. Carlos Curbelo and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, joined Democrats and environmental groups Tuesday in calling on Pruitt to resign or be fired.

Source: Mueller says Trump is not now a criminal target

By CHAD DAY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller has informed President Donald Trump's attorneys that the president is not currently considered a criminal target in the Russia investigation, according to a person familiar with the conversation.

The person, who was not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations and demanded anonymity, said the president is considered a subject of Mueller's probe — not a target. A subject is typically someone whose conduct is of interest to investigators but prosecutors are not certain they've gathered enough evidence to bring charges.

The designation could change at any time, though. The development was first reported by The Washington Post.

Trump's designation as a subject came up as prosecutors and the president's legal team have been negotiating the terms of an interview with him. The president has said he wants to speak with Mueller's team, but his lawyers have not publicly committed to allowing him to be questioned.

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow declined to confirm or discuss the conversations with Mueller.

"We do not discuss real or alleged conversations between our legal team and the Office of Special Counsel," Sekulow said.

White House lawyer Ty Cobb also declined to comment.

Mueller's team has signaled that they're interested in discussing several key episodes in the early parts of the Trump administration as they probe possible obstruction of justice.

Prosecutors have told the legal team they want to question Trump about the firings of former FBI Director James Comey and former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

Investigators want to discuss

Dutch attorney gets 30 days, fine in Russia probe

Associated Press

in an investigation of international importance, said incarceration was necessary.

"These were not mistakes. These were lies," Jackson told van der Zwaan, who stood before her. Being able to "write a check and walk away," she added later, would not fit the seriousness of the crime or send the right message.

The criminal case against van der Zwaan is not directly related to Russian election interference, the main focus of Mueller's probe. But it has revealed new details about the government's case against Manafort and opened a window into the intersecting universes of international law, foreign consulting work and politics.

Van der Zwaan, who was fired last year by the high-powered international law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, admitted in February to lying to federal agents about his contacts with Gates and the person with ties to Russian intelligence.

conversations Trump had with Comey in which the former FBI director has said the president encouraged him to end an active investigation into Flynn. They're also interested in the events leading

up to Flynn's February 2017 firing.

Investigators have said they want to hear from the president to understand his intent and thinking during those events.

Many customers to pay less for 'Obamacare'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consumers getting financial assistance under former President Barack Obama's health care law will pay lower premiums this year, even though the "list price" for their health insurance shot up.

That odd result is reflected in a report issued Tuesday by the Trump administration.

After federal aid, the average monthly premium paid by subsidized customers on HealthCare.gov is dropping to \$89 from last year's \$106. That's a 16 percent savings even though the "list price" premium went up about 30 percent, now averaging \$639 for those subsidized customers.

The bottom line is counterintuitive, but it shows how "Obamacare" subsidies cushion consumers from rising premiums.

Independent analysts say a big part of this year's premium increases is due to actions by the Trump

administration, including the cancellation of major payments to insurers.

Insurers jacked up premiums to make up for the loss of federal dollars to cover discounted copays and deductibles that the companies were required to provide to low-income customers.

Congressional authorization of the payments was under a legal cloud, and President Donald Trump pulled the plug. Bipartisan efforts to restore the money recently fell apart over disputes about abortion coverage.

"These numbers show for the first time how the Trump administration's termination of payments to insurers in a sense backfired," said Larry Levitt, of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. "The result, which is a little bizarre, is that consumers eligible for government premium subsidies are actually paying less out of their own pockets for insurance on average than last year."

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NATION

YouTube shooting suspect had grudge against company

BY DEREK HAWKINS

The Washington Post

The woman who police say opened fire Tuesday at YouTube's headquarters in San Bruno, Calif., had a grudge against the company, family members told local media, and she appeared to be a prolific user of the video sharing platform who accused YouTube moderators of suppressing her content.

Police identified the shooter as Nasim Najafi Aghdam, 39, of San Diego. They said she opened fire with a handgun in a courtyard outside the company's headquarters, wounding three people before taking her own life.

A woman matching Aghdam's name and appearance maintained several YouTube channels and a personal website where she published videos about a range of topics, including veganism, animal cruelty and fitness. She also frequently ranted against YouTube, claiming the company discriminated against her and filtered her video to prevent them from getting views.

"There is no free speech in real world & you will be suppressed for telling the truth that is not supported by the system," read one post on her site. "There is no equal growth opportunity on YOUTUBE or any other video sharing site, your channel will grow if they want to!!!!!!"

She made similar claims in videos, saying the company was cheating video makers out of money. "Growing on YouTube is not in your hands," she said, "if it all depends on who is controlling your channel."

The channels each had several thousand subscribers, and some uploads had hundreds of thousands of views. All of them were offline by late Tuesday, with

statements saying the channels had been terminated "due to multiple or severe violations" of YouTube's policies.

San Bruno police said they were investigating a motive for the shooting. "At this time there is no evidence that the shooter knew the victims of this shooting or that individuals were specifically targeted," police said in a statement.

Aghdam's father, Ismail Aghdam, told the Mercury News on Tuesday that his daughter had complained to her family in recent weeks that YouTube was censoring her videos and cutting back her revenue from advertising. "She was angry," he said.

YouTube users can earn money through advertisements, but the company often "demonitizes" videos that contain content it deems controversial, including profanity, violence or sexually suggestive material. A YouTube representative didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Police said Aghdam opened fire at YouTube's headquarters about 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, sending terrified employees fleeing. Some took shelter in nearby businesses, while others barricaded themselves in conference rooms. Police said four people were transported to the hospital, three of them suffering from gunshot wounds.

A Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital spokesman said a 36-year-old was in critical condition. Two women were also being treated for injuries, one of them in critical condition, the other in fair condition, a hospital official told The Post. Police found Aghdam dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound while searching the headquarters.

Though police identified Nasim Aghdam as a 39-year-old, her brother, Shahran Aghdam, told the Mercury News that Wednesday would have been her 38th birthday.

"She chose the day to die the day she came," he said.



Aghdam



NATE BILLINGS, THE OKLAHOMAN/AP

Oklahoma teachers and supporters of increased education funding rally on the second-floor rotunda of the state Capitol in Oklahoma City on Tuesday.

GOP put on the spot in red states where teachers protesting

BY SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A teacher walkout in Oklahoma entered its third day Wednesday in a red state rebellion stretching from West Virginia to Arizona that is putting Republican lawmakers on the spot politically.

In Oklahoma, most Republicans last week broke with the party orthodoxy and endorsed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increases to fund public schools and give teachers a raise of 15 to 18 percent. But now that's forcing them to walk a fine line in the months before midterm elections between placating constituents who are angry over education cuts and conservative supporters who want a smaller government and low taxes.

They acted after Oklahoma teachers demanded action, inspired by a nine-day strike in West Virginia, where teachers won a 5 percent raise. The rebellion also has spread to Kentucky as teachers thronged the state Capitol on Monday to protest cuts in pensions. And in Arizona, restive teachers are also demonstrating, demanding a 20 percent pay raise.

But the epicenter of the revolt now is Oklahoma where lawmakers won little praise for approving major tax increases and instead caught flak from both sides of the political divide.

"I've had some political blowback, people said this will be my last term in office," said Rep. Kyle Hilbert, a Republican from rural northeast Oklahoma who voted for the tax increases and has gotten an earful from conservatives. "I'd rather serve one term and know what I did was best for my district."

Some Republicans are ex-

pecting support for the teacher rebellion. Three weeks before a closely watched special election for an open congressional seat in Arizona, Republican hopeful Debbie Lesko is running a TV ad that shows her reading a book to children as she vows to "fix our schools and give our teachers the raise they deserve."

As he runs for a second term, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey in Arizona epitomizes the dilemma for GOP candidates in 2018. He refuses to raise taxes and finds himself on the defensive amid growing frustration with education funding in a state where the budget was decimated during the recession and where he and other leaders have dramatically expanded voucher programs.

Teachers have been filling the Capitol to protest a Ducey plan to provide a 2 percent raise for teachers, and they have been joined by the two Democrats trying to unseat him.

The protests also have emboldened teachers across the country to run for office. About two dozen educators or former educators are running for office this year in Kentucky, most of them as Democrats.

Carri Hicks, a fourth-grade math and science teacher in the Oklahoma City suburb of Deer Creek, said she decided to run as a Democrat for a state Senate seat this year in part because of the declines in funding for public schools.

"I want to be a voice for the teachers at the state Capitol," Hicks said, saying the raise for teachers and more money for education was a good first step. "My campaign continues to finish the job."

US acknowledges presence of cellphone spying devices in DC

BY FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

For the first time, the U.S. government has publicly acknowledged the existence in Washington of what appear to be rogue devices that foreign spies and criminals could be using to track individual cellphones and intercept calls and messages.

The use of what are known as cellphone-site simulators by foreign powers has long been a concern, but American intelligence and law enforcement agencies — which use such eavesdropping equipment themselves — have been silent on the issue until now.

In a March 26 letter to Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged that last year it identified suspected unauthorized cell-site simulators in the nation's capital. The agency said it had not determined the type of devices in use or who might have been operating them. Nor did it say how many it detected or where.

The agency's response, obtained by The Associated Press from Wyden's office, suggests little has been done about such

equipment, known popularly as Stingrays after a brand common among U.S. police departments. The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the nation's airwaves, formed a task force on the subject four years ago, but it never produced a report and no longer meets regularly.

The devices work by tricking mobile devices into locking onto them instead of legitimate cell towers, revealing the exact location of a particular cellphone. More sophisticated versions can eavesdrop on calls by forcing phones to step down to older, unencrypted 2G wireless technology. Some attempt to plant malware.

They can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to about \$200,000. They are commonly the size of a briefcase; some are as small as a cellphone. They can be placed in a car next to a government building. The most powerful can be deployed in low-flying aircraft.

Thousands of members of the military, the NSA, the CIA, the FBI and the rest of the national security apparatus live and work in the Washington area. The surveillance-savvy among them encrypt their phone and data communica-

tions and employ electronic countermeasures. But unsuspecting citizens could fall prey.

Wyden, a Democrat, wrote the DHS in November requesting information about unauthorized use of the cell-site simulators.

The reply from DHS official Christopher Krebs noted that the DHS had observed "anomalous activity" consistent with Stingrays in the Washington area.

Krebs, the top official in the department's National Protection and Programs Directorate, noted in the letter that the DHS lacks the equipment and funding to detect Stingrays even though their use by foreign governments "may threaten U.S. national and economic security."

Shutting down rogue Stingrays is an expensive proposition that would require wireless network upgrades the industry has been loath to pay for, security experts say. It could also lead to conflict with U.S. intelligence and law enforcement.

In addition to federal agencies, police departments use them in at least 25 states and the District of Columbia, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

NATION

MLK: At events, resilience, resolve and a renewed commitment to King's legacy

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Memphis events were scheduled to feature King's contemporaries, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rev. Al Sharpton and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., along with celebrities such as the rapper Common. In the evening, the Atlanta events culminate with a bell-ringing and wreath-laying at his crypt to mark the moment when he was gunned down on the balcony of the old Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. He was 39.

President Donald Trump issued a proclamation in honor of the anniversary, saying, "In remembrance of his profound and inspirational virtues, we look to do as Dr. King did while this world was privileged enough to still have him."

The president has been the target of veiled criticism by some speakers at King commemorations in recent days as they complained of fraught race relations and other divisions made plain since he was elected.

The anniversary of King's death coincides with a resurgence in white supremacy, the continued shooting of unarmed black men and a parade of discouraging statistics on the lack of progress among black Americans on issues from housing to education to wealth. But rather than despair, the resounding message repeated at the commemorations was one of resilience, resolve and a renewed commitment to King's legacy and unfinished work.

Wednesday's events followed a rousing celebration the night before of King's "I've Been To the Mountaintop" speech at Memphis' Mason Temple Church of God in Christ. He delivered this speech the night before he was assassinated.

Inside the church, Bernice King called her older brother, Martin Luther King III, to join her in the pulpit, and she discussed the difficulty of publicly mourning their father — a man hated during his lifetime, now beloved around the world.

"It's important to see two of

'We must still struggle; we must still sacrifice. We must still educate and organize and mobilize. That's why we're here in Memphis. Not just to honor our history, but to seize our future.'

Lee Saunders
national labor leader

the children who lost their daddy 50 years ago to an assassin's bullet," said Bernice King, 55. "But we kept going. Keep all of us in prayer as we continue the grieving process for a parent that we've had yet to bury."

A gospel singer led a rousing rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and the gathering took on the air of a mass meeting.

Lee Saunders, a national labor leader, recounted how on that night in 1968 King made an unplanned appearance to deliver the famous speech without notes after his aides saw how passionate the crowd was. "There was one man they wanted to hear from."

But Saunders stressed that the purpose of the week's commemorations was not just to look to the past.

"Dr. King's work — our work — isn't done. We must still struggle; we must still sacrifice. We must still educate and organize and mobilize. That's why we're here in Memphis. Not just to honor our history, but to seize our future," he said.

Some of the sanitation workers who participated with King in a 1968 strike sat in the front row and were treated like celebrities, with audience members stopping to take photos with them before the event started.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

People hold signs resembling ones carried by sanitation workers in 1968 as they commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on Wednesday in Memphis, Tenn.



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Jeremiah Bridgewater kneels at King's gravesite in Atlanta on Wednesday.



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NATION

Planned fee hikes at top US parks reconsidered

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department is backing down from a plan to impose steep fee increases at popular national parks in the face of widespread opposition from elected officials and the public.

The plan would nearly triple entrance fees at 17 of the nation's most popular parks, including the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone and Zion, forcing visitors to pay \$70 per vehicle during the peak summer season.

While plans are still being finalized, a spokeswoman for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said officials have "taken the public's suggestions seriously and have amended the plan to reflect those" comments.

Zinke announced the fee increase last October, saying it could raise \$70 million a year to pay for maintenance projects at the National Park Service. The plan drew immediate resistance from lawmakers and governors of both parties, who said the higher fees could exclude many Americans from enjoying national parks.

Most of the parks affected by the plan are in the West, including Mount Rainier and Olympic parks in Washington state, Rocky Mountain in Colorado and Grand Teton in Wyoming. Acadia National Park in Maine and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia would also be affected.

The park service received more than 109,000 comments on the proposal, most of them opposed, during a two-month comment period that ended in late December.

Emily Douce, budget and appropriations director for the National Parks Conservation Association, said that while her group recognizes that fee increases are sometimes necessary, "We were adamantly against the fee proposal that came out. It was too much, too fast."

Spokeswoman Heather Swift said Tuesday that Zinke "remains laser-focused on rebuilding our park infrastructure" and addressing an \$11 billion maintenance backlog in the parks.

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Republicans run into a buzz saw of conservative criticism over a deficit-expanding new budget, GOP leaders and the White House are looking for ways to undo the damage by allowing President Donald Trump to rescind some of the spending he signed into law just 10 days ago.

Rolling back the funds would be a highly unusual move and could put some lawmakers in the potentially uncomfortable position of having to vote for specific spending opposed by a president from their party. But it would also offer Republicans a way to save face amid the backlash over the bill that conservatives, and Trump himself, complain gives too much money for Democratic priorities.

Trump has been talking with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., about the plan over the past couple of days,

according to an aide to the House leader who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private talks. It is not clear how widely the idea has been embraced by other top Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan or Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, whose offices declined to discuss it.

"There are conversations right now," said Matt Sparks, a spokesman for McCarthy. "The administration and Congress and McCarthy are talking about it."

The idea emerged as lawmakers get hammered back home for the \$1.3 trillion spending package that, while beefing up funds for the military, also increases spending on transportation, child care and other domestic programs in a compromise with Democrats that Trump derided as a "waste" and "giveaway."

Trump's decision to sign the bill into law, after openly toying with a veto, has not quelled the unrest and may have helped fuel it.

"People are mad as hell about it

and mad as hell that they put the president in that situation — that he sign the bill or shut the government down," said Amy Kremer, a founder of the tea party and co-chairwoman of Americans for Trump.

Kremer said Republicans in Congress have lost sight of the voters who propelled them to the majority on an agenda of fiscal restraint. "They are no better than the Democrats," she said.

Lawmakers home on spring recess are feeling the brunt of the criticism. Rep. Mark Amodei, R-Nev., said he encountered a finger-wagging voter back home almost as soon as he stepped off the airplane.

Fox News host Sean Hannity asked, "What happened to the Republican Party?" after Trump signed the bill. "Republicans should be ashamed of themselves," he added.

In some ways, the rescission proposal is as close as Trump can get to the line-item veto, which he called on Congress to enact even

though the Supreme Court decided in 1998 that it would violate the authority of the Constitution gives Congress on legislation.

The idea centers on a rarely used provision of the 1974 Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act. It allows the White House to propose rescinding funds and sets a 45-day clock for the House and Senate to vote.

Congress could simply ignore the president's request and keep the funds in place.

Sparks didn't specify how much spending could be rescinded or in what categories. But Trump would likely seek to focus on domestic spending he has attacked in recent tweets.

Voting, though, could be difficult, even for fiscally conservative Republicans, since Trump's targets may be popular projects or programs back home, said Gordon Gray, the director of Fiscal Policy at the center-right American Action Forum.

Dems encouraged by win in Wis. court race

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Liberal judge Rebecca Dallet's runaway victory in the Wisconsin Supreme Court race cheered Democrats eager for more evidence that their party can expect success in midterm elections this fall.

Dallet's hammering of conservative judge Michael Screnock, 48, on Tuesday prodded Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who had endorsed Screnock, to warn his fellow Republicans that more losses could be coming.

"Tonight's results show we are at risk of a #BlueWave in WI," Walker, who is up for re-election in November, tweeted. "Big government special interests flooded Wisconsin with distorted facts & misinformation. Next, they'll target me and work to undo our bold reforms."

Although the race was viewed by some as a bellwether, results of past Supreme Court elections have not consistently proven to be predictive of what will happen in November. President Donald



RICK WOOD, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL/AP

Rebecca Dallet stands with her family in Milwaukee as they celebrate her winning a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Trump won the state by less than 1 percentage point in 2016, while Dallet thumped Screnock by double digits.

Dallet, 48, won by nearly 12

highest over the past 12 Supreme Court elections.

Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairwoman Martha Laning said the win was a warning shot to Walker, calling it a "huge loss" for him because his "endorsement, philosophy and politics were on the ballot."

One of the Democratic challengers to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, immediately tried to raise money off the Dallet win. Randy Bryce called the Dallet win "a rallying cry for working folks."

Walker also used the results to raise money.

Dallet's victory follows a surprising Democratic win in January in a special election for a state Senate seat held by Republicans for 17 years — an outcome that Walker said then was a "wake-up call" for his party.

Two other special legislative elections are coming this June, giving Democrats more chances to build momentum heading into the fall.

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NATION

Study: Antacids, antibiotics boost kids' allergy risk

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

Infants who are given antacids like Zantac or Pepcid are more likely to develop childhood allergies, perhaps because these drugs may alter their gut bacteria, a new large study suggests.

Early use of antibiotics also raised the chances of allergies in the study of nearly 800,000 children.

Researchers combed the health records of kids born between 2001 and 2013 and covered by Tricare, an insurance program for active-duty and retired military.

tary personnel and their families. A surprising 9 percent of the babies received antacids, reflecting the popularity of treating reflux in infancy.

Over four years, more than half of all the children developed allergies to foods or medications, rashes, asthma, hay fever or other allergic diseases. The study couldn't prove causes, but the connection with antacids and antibiotics was striking.

For children who received an antacid during their first six months, the chances of developing a food allergy doubled; the chances of developing a severe

allergic reaction called anaphylaxis or hay fever were about 50 percent higher.

For babies who received antibiotics, the chances doubled for asthma and were at least 50 percent higher for hay fever and anaphylaxis.

The results were published Monday in JAMA Pediatrics.

"These medicines are considered generally harmless and something to try with fussy babies who spit up a lot," said lead researcher Dr. Edward Mitre, of the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md. "We should be a little more cautious prescribing

these medicines."

Mitre's interest began when his youngest was a baby. A pediatrician suggested an antacid because the baby cried when on his back.

"We didn't give it to him. He did not have terrible reflux. He got fussy when you put him flat," Mitre recalled.

In the study, it's possible medications were given to infants who already had allergies and were misdiagnosed, the authors acknowledged. But that didn't seem likely to explain all of the strong effect they saw.

Gut bacteria play a role in a

healthy immune system. Antibiotics and antacids might change the makeup of a baby's microbiome, perhaps enough to cause an overreaction in the immune system that shows up as an allergy, Mitre said.

Antacids also change the way protein is digested, and some may alter development of immune system pathways.

Study co-author and pediatrician Dr. Cade Nyland, of Uniformed Services University, said parents can try offering fussy babies smaller amounts of food more often and frequent burping during meals.



A man stands next to where a house once stood in Hiroshima, Japan, on Sept. 7, 1945. The Los Alamos Historical Museum says it will delay hosting a traveling exhibit organized by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum until differences over the theme are worked out.

Hiroshima exhibit is stalled due to dispute

Associated Press

A museum in Los Alamos, New Mexico — a once-secret New Mexico city that developed the atomic bomb which helped end World War II — has put an exhibit from Japan on hold because of its theme of abolishing nuclear weapons.

The Los Alamos Historical Museum confirmed Monday that it will not host a traveling exhibit organized by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum until all parties can work out their differences over the theme.

The exhibit, which features articles of clothing, exposed plates and other personal items from victims, aims to draw attention to the horrors of the bombs that destroyed both cities.

Heather McClenahan, executive director of the Los Alamos Historical Museum, said the museum's board of directors felt uncomfortable about the exhibit's call to abolish nuclear bombs. The New Mexico city is still home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory, one of the U.S.' premier nu-

clear weapons research centers.

The exhibit dispute comes as the Los Alamos National Lab competes with the Energy Department's Savannah River Site in South Carolina to continue production of plutonium pits. Those are critical cores which trigger nuclear warheads.

New pits have been made since 2011. The Energy Department wants to ramp up production to 80 pits a year by 2030.

"The Los Alamos Historical Society will continue its dialogue with the museums in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in hopes that we can overcome cultural and linguistic differences and host exhibits that are respectful to all of our communities' concerns and stories," McClenahan said. "In other words, we hope this is not the end but the beginning of delving together into our history and questions it raises."

She said the historical society will not send an exhibit about Los Alamos scientists to Hiroshima and Nagasaki without significant dialogue and input from their museums.

Cosby defense scores wins as jury selection continues

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby's lawyers scored a pair of rulings crucial to their strategy of painting his accuser as a money-grabbing liar, but they could not get the last prospective juror who seemed most willing to consider that idea.

The defense wanted a man

who said he thought many of the women coming forward in the #MeToo movement were "jumping on the bandwagon," but pros

ecutors used a challenge to send him home.

They agreed on six other jurors, bringing the two-day total to seven. They have eliminated more than 200 potential jurors.

Jury selection continues Wednesday, with a dozen people invited back for individual questioning as the prosecution and defense look to fill 11 remaining spots. A third batch of 120 potential jurors is being brought to the courthouse in suburban Philadelphia.

No major rulings are expected after Judge Steven O'Neill opened Tuesday's session by issuing back-to-back decisions favorable to the defense team that tried to force him off the case last month over his wife's work with sexual assault victims.

O'Neill granted the Cosby team's request to call a woman who says accuser Andrea Constand talked about framing a celebrity before she lodged allegations against him in 2005. The judge also ruled that jurors can hear how much Cosby paid Con-

stand in a 2006 civil settlement.

Jury selection moved briskly on Tuesday until late in the day, when a second pool of potential jurors proved more opinionated and less willing to serve than the panel that produced the first seven.

Two-thirds of the group said they already had formed an opinion about Cosby's guilt or innocence, and all but about 20 people begged off the case, saying it would be a hardship to serve.

Two of the people who made the cut said they had no knowledge of the Cosby case. Five of the jurors picked so far are white and two are black, with four men and three women.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he drugged and molested Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He says the encounter with the former Temple University women's basketball administrator was consensual.

O'Neill's ruling allowing Marqueta Jackson to testify was at odds with his decision to block her from the first trial, which ended in a hung jury. O'Neill did not explain his change of heart but said he could revisit her testimony

after Constand takes the stand.

During the first trial, O'Neill ruled Jackson's testimony would be hearsay after Constand testified she did not know the woman.

Jackson, a longtime Temple University official, has said that she and Constand worked closely together, had been friends and had shared hotel rooms several times.

Since then, prosecutors have told Cosby's lawyers that Constand had modified her statement to acknowledge she "recalls a Margo."

Constand's lawyer has said Jackson is not telling the truth.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Suspect sings 'Cops' theme after arrest

NJ HAWORTH — A teenager sang the theme from the television show "Cops" after he was arrested following a chase in New Jersey.

Haworth police told The Record the 16-year-old was driving a stolen car when officers gave chase on Saturday. Officers pursued the vehicle through a golf course before the suspect bailed out. He can be heard singing on dashcam video, "Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do?"

The teen, whose name was not released because he's a juvenile, faces charges including eluding, resisting arrest by flight, burglary and receiving stolen property.

Sleeping girl shot as mom's gun goes off

IL LANSING — Police said a girl, 5, was shot and wounded while sleeping after a gun her mother was handling went off at a party in suburban Chicago.

The accidental shooting happened in Lansing. Police responded early Monday and said the girl was treated at a hospital in nearby Munster, Ind., before being transferred to a Chicago hospital. WGN-TV reported that the girl was in serious but stable condition following surgery.

Police said an initial investigation found that the child was sleeping during the party when the gun went off.

Names of those involved weren't immediately released, and no arrests were immediately reported.

Police: Couple ran brothel; kids present

PA INGRAM — Authorities said a Pennsylvania couple ran a brothel out of a residence where three young children live.

Indiana police said Brittany Patrick, 26, and her boyfriend Lukas Trout, 27, both face child endangerment charges. Patrick is also charged with prostitution, while Trout faces a conspiracy charge.

Authorities said they learned of the brothel after receiving complaints from Patrick's neighbors. Investigators discovered an ad Patrick had placed on an adult website. The probe culminated Friday when an undercover officer went to Patrick's apartment and Trout allegedly welcomed him and directed him to a bedroom.

Patrick and Trout are the parents of an 18-month-old child who lives in the apartment. Authorities said the children of Patrick's roommate, ages 8 and 10, were also allegedly present while prostitution was actively occurring.

Police: Man shot dog instead of his target

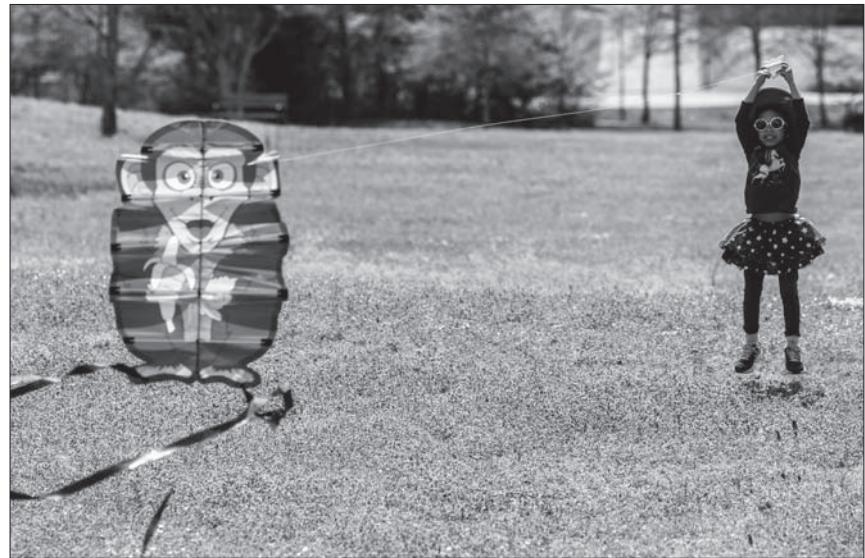
AL TRUSSVILLE — Police said a man has been charged with attempted murder after trying to shoot a man but shooting his own dog instead.

AL.com reported that Truss-

THE CENSUS

\$900

The approximate amount a Rhode Island city has collected since it installed "giving meters" for people who want to donate to homeless causes without giving handouts to panhandlers. A spokesman for Providence's Democratic Mayor Jorge Elorza said the 10 donation stations have brought in \$904.63. WPRI-TV reported that the meters cost the city \$1,000 each to install. Elorza made a \$100 donation when the first meter was unveiled last year. Proceeds will be donated to organizations that help "individuals experiencing homelessness." The mayor's spokesman said a city commission will meet soon to discuss potential recipients for donations.



BRUCE NEWMAN, OXFORD (Miss.) EAGLE/AP

Lifting off

Sophia Thomas jumps in an effort to get her kite to take flight at Pat Lamar Park in Oxford, Miss. on Tuesday.

A ville police were fired on to a report of shots fired on Saturday and found Michael Jeremy Goines, 38, trying to leave the scene.

Police determined that Downs had attempted to shoot a man he was arguing with but instead he shot his own dog, which had been seated near the man.

The dog is expected to recover and is being treated at a local humane society.

Downs was being held on bail.

Pregnant woman not allowed to take cruise

FL MIAMI — Disney Cruise Lines prevented a Missouri woman from boarding one of its ships because she was 25 weeks pregnant.

Emily Jackson and her family arrived in Miami last week after her doctor had cleared her to vacation aboard Disney Magic. But the line does not allow women who are more than 24 weeks pregnant to sail out of safety concerns, and a doctor's note is not accepted.

An armed police officer escorted the family from check-in.

Jackson said, "We had a terrible Disney experience."

Pokemon Go Fest planners settle lawsuit

IL CHICAGO — The organizers of a Pokemon Go Fest in Chicago have settled a class-action lawsuit by dissatisfied attendees for about \$1.6 million.

Last year's festival in Chicago's Grant Park went awry when technical glitches prevented many fans from logging on to the augmented reality game.

The problems forced game developer Niantic Inc. to issue a full refund for the \$20 tickets and \$100 in credits for use of the app. The game uses GPS to locate, capture, battle and train virtual creatures.

Plaintiff's attorney Tom Zimmerman said the settlement will cover a number of the festival-goers' expenses, including travel, lodging, car rental, mileage and gas, tolls and parking.

The settlement must be reviewed and approved by a judge.

Fake severed fingers cause scare at garage

NY NEW YORK — Police said a report of severed fingers caused a scare at a New

York City parking garage before officers figured out they were fake.

The New York Police Department said a cleaner called 911 on Monday after discovering what appeared to be bloody fingers in a baggie inside the garage.

Police officers and city medical examiner personnel responded by sealing off the garage and searching for other body parts. They later determined the fingers were rubber and possibly placed there as a prank. No one was charged.

Captain indicted after evidence room theft

MA WEST SPRINGFIELD — A Massachusetts police captain previously placed on leave amid "discrepancies" involving evidence-room money has been indicted.

Prosecutors said West Springfield Capt. Daniel Spaulding was indicted Friday for allegedly stealing more than \$1,000 from the department. Spaulding, 50, was charged with using an official position to obtain unwarranted privilege. He was the senior officer in charge of evidence until October.

Authorities allege he took the money from the department's ev-

idence room between May 2016 and May 2017. They say he later replaced the money and returned missing evidence bags.

Spaulding was placed on paid administrative leave in August. West Springfield's police chief said Spaulding has now been suspended without pay pending the outcome of the case.

Coach charged with heroin possession

CT STAMFORD — A Connecticut high school basketball coach arrested on heroin possession charges last weekend is out of a job.

The Stamford Advocate reported that Jose Amor, 30, stepped down as an assistant coach at New Canaan High School on Monday. Amor previously served as an assistant coach at Westhill High School in Stamford.

Amor was arrested in Stamford on Friday night after he was found passed out behind the wheel of his car with his driver's side door open. Police said they found 20 bags of heroin and prescription medications in the vehicle. He was charged with possession of narcotics with intent to sell.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

China to raise tariffs on US soy, planes, more

By JOE McDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — China on Wednesday issued a \$50 billion list of U.S. goods, including soybeans and aircraft targeted for possible retaliation in an escalating technology dispute with Washington that companies worry could set back the global economic recovery.

The Chinese tax agency said the date the 25 percent tariff increase might take effect would be announced later, depending on what President Donald Trump's government does about plans to raise duties on a similar amount of Chinese goods. A Commerce Ministry statement said China was protecting its "legitimate rights and interests."

Chinese authorities warned they would respond with the

"same strength" after U.S. authorities issued a list of Chinese goods Tuesday targeted for 25 percent duties in response to complaints Beijing pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

China's list of 106 products included the biggest U.S. exports to China, reflecting Beijing's intense sensitivity to the dispute over complaints of pressuring foreign companies.

The clash reflects the tension between Trump's promises to narrow the multibillion-dollar U.S. trade deficit with China and the ruling Communist Party's ambitious development plans. Those include using access to China's vast market as leverage to induce foreign automakers and other companies to help create or improve industry and

technology.

China said it would immediately challenge the U.S. move in the World Trade Organization.

"It's our hope that both sides will bear in mind our interests and work in a constructive manner to jointly tackle the challenges we face instead of acting in a willful way or doing anything that will significantly undermine the interests of both nations," a deputy finance minister, Zhu Guangyao, said at a news conference.

Zhu warned against expecting Beijing to give in.

"Pressure from the outside will only urge and encourage the Chinese people to work even harder," he said.

The proposed Chinese increase mirrors the possible 25 percent tariffs on goods announced Tuesday by the Trump administration

including aerospace, telecoms and machinery.

The American list strikes at high-tech industries seen by Chinese leaders as the key to their country's economic future.

Companies and economists have expressed concern that growing global economic activity might cool if other governments are prompted to raise their own import barriers.

The dispute "may compel countries to pick sides," said Leiming Chang, of Mizuho Bank, in a report.

American companies have long complained under Chinese regulations that require them to operate through local partners and share technology with potential competitors in exchange for market access.

Business groups say compa-

nies feel increasingly unwelcome in China's state-dominated economy and are being squeezed out of promising industries.

China's list on Wednesday included soybeans, the biggest U.S. export to China, and aircraft that weigh up to 45 tons. That excludes much heavier Boeing jetliners, leaving Beijing additional high-profile targets for possible future rounds of the conflict.

Other products on the list include American beef, whisky, passenger vehicles and industrial chemicals.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (April 5)	\$1.2617
Dollar buys (April 5)	\$0.7926
Canadian (Dollar)	1.3538
Swiss (Franc)	0.8520
Denmark (Krone)	6.0586
Egypt (Pound)	17.6788
French (Franc)	1.2297/1.2312
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8490
Hungary (Forint)	253.16
Italian (Lira)	3.3937
Japan (Yen)	106.34
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2999
Norway (Krone)	7.8538
Poland (Zloty)	52.10
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U.K. (Pound)	1.3994

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(Military exchange rates are those available to customers of military banking services. Commercial rates are those available to the general public.)

For example, the U.S. military can buy 1.2617 euros for each dollar it spends in China, but the general public can buy only 0.7926 euros for each dollar.

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FACES



SILENCE PLEASE

Marvel Studios' "Avengers: Infinity War" stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Robert Downey Jr., Mark Ruffalo and Benedict Wong. Directors Joe and Anthony Russo said on Twitter "only a handful of people know the film's true plot."

'Avengers: Infinity War' directors, Downey ask for secrecy

Associated Press

Actor Robert Downey Jr. is joining the directors of "Avengers: Infinity War" in calling for fans to maintain secrecy.

The star tweeted "no spoilers please." He signed it with the #ThanosDemandsYourSilence. Thanos is the fictional Marvel Comics villain who will be portrayed by Josh Brolin in the movie. Downey plays

Iron Man.

Directors Joe and Anthony Russo went on Twitter to tell fans they would be screening a limited amount of footage prior to the film's release on April 27. They say "only a handful of people know the film's true plot."

They asked fans to maintain the same level of secrecy so that they don't spoil it for others.

TV's 'Wonder Woman' added to Walk of Fame

From wire reports

TV's "Wonder Woman" has a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

Actress Lynda Carter received the honor Tuesday.

The 65-year-old said the television series gave birth to her career as a superhero and feminist icon. The show ran from 1975 to 1979.

Patty Jenkins, who directed the 2017 "Wonder Woman" movie, spoke at the ceremony. Jenkins said Carter's portrayal of Wonder Woman made her believe she could have whatever she wanted and be "unashamed to want it."

The movie "Wonder Woman" star, Gal Gadot, tweeted thanks to Carter for her "loving kindness shared by the sisterhood of women of wonder."

Other news

■ Following their Academy

Award-winning collaboration on "The Shape of Water," Fox Searchlight Pictures and director Guillermo del Toro have signed a new development deal that will include a new genre label to serve as a home for horror, sci-fi and fantasy projects. Films under the new label will be financed, marketed and distributed by Fox Searchlight, company co-presidents Stephen Gilula and Nancy Utley said in their announcement Tuesday. The name of the label will be announced later, but Searchlight said it would include projects produced and curated by Del Toro. The first movie in the pipeline will be "Antlers," a story about an elementary school teacher who takes in a troubled student, based on the short story "The Quiet Boy" by Nick Antosca.

■ Author Joan Silber has received another literary prize. Silber's novel "Improvement" is the winner of the PEN/Faulkner



Lynda Carter, star of the TV series "Wonder Woman," crosses her arms in a Wonder Woman pose at a ceremony honoring her with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

award for fiction, a \$15,000 honor. Last month, Silber was awarded the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction. On Wednesday, PEN/Faulkner judges praised Silber's gift for combining multiple narratives and revealing the

lives of "unassuming, everyday people." Her other books include "Household Words" and "Fools," a PEN/Faulkner finalist in 2014.

■ A rapper and reality star says he was robbed at gunpoint in New Jersey in what was "one

Dierks Bentley wants to celebrate women at ACMs

BY KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Dierks Bentley hopes that his new single reminds people that he's not always singing about being drunk on a plane, or being a bum looking for a rebound.

Bentley's new song, "Woman, Amen," is a rousing, drum-driven celebration of the kind of women that aren't typically profiled in country songs. And he'll be using the song to highlight real women during his performance at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on April 15.

"I think it helps counter out some of the other songs I have had out there," Bentley said recently as he was preparing to shoot the music video in Nashville.

Bentley is hardly the worst offender of lyrical stereotyping in Nashville, but he knows he's got a bit of a reputation for songs like "Somewhere on a Beach."

"Woman, Amen" is hopefully really tipping the song back into more of a level playing field," Bentley said. "I am definitely guilty of some songs just to be definitely guilty of some songs just to be definitely guilty."

Bentley is asking fans to submit pictures and stories on social media with the tag #WomanAmenACM of exceptional women in their lives who deserve recognition. He will be part of the performance being aired on CBS. Bentley said his wife, Cassidy, has been looking at the submissions and getting emotional.

"It's a song about celebrating a woman in my life and several women in my life," Bentley said. "I love seeing a song that's very personal to me, that's concrete and identifiable be taken by fans and they can use it in a way that's universal to them."



Dierks Bentley, left — with his wife Cassidy Black — will perform his new song, "Woman, Amen," at the Academy of Country Music Awards on April 15.

of the worst, scariest nights of my life," Safaree Samuels says the robbery happened Monday in Fort Lee around 2 a.m. The 36-year-old told WWPR-FM two men ran up and had him face down on the ground with a gun to his head. Police say the suspects stole \$183,000 in cash and jewelry. Police have arrested two suspects and charged them with robbery. A search for the third person is ongoing.

■ "Roseanne" wasn't just a hit on opening night. The revived ABC comedy had legs. The Nielsen company said Tuesday that viewership for the show's premiere shot up to 25 million people when delayed viewing for the three days after last Tuesday's first showing is added. The increase of 6.6 million people sets a record for the biggest lift ever for a show in the three days after a premiere, Nielsen said. A lot of programs would be happy to get 6.6 million viewers, period. "Roseanne" was helped by the extent to which it became part of the cultural conversation once its first-night ratings of 18.45 million people were reported.

STARS AND STRIPES

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Shaking up the world one continent at a time

CALANTHA REMY,
JUNIOR, OKINAWA

My story of being a military kid is riveting. My dad migrated to the United States at the age of sixteen with his Haitian father to seek a better life. After my dad had graduated high school as the Salutatorian of his class, he could only afford one semester of college and decided that his best choice was to join the military. After he was enlisted he was deployed to Germany and met my mother. At that time none of my parents were American citizens so when I was born in Frankfurt, Germany I was a German citizen. Later on my dad and mom became American citizens and I did as well. This is when my journey as a military child began.

Having been born in Germany and having a German mother, I grew up with my mother's side of the family. I learned all the German customs and the language as well. I hold my mom's side of the family dear to me because they contributed to making me the person I am today. When I visited Paris, I actually witnessed the real Eiffel Tower, not the knock off version like in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Louvre, and Notre-Dame de Paris.

I love that I have been able to experience and appreciate all the unique cultures around the world. I have seen many places filled with history, from museums and monuments in the States to palaces and architecture in Paris, France. I have always been around many cultures and people growing up. The countries I have visited are the United States, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, France, Spain, Canada, Japan, and Korea. I love the traveling that comes with being a military child. I just do not enjoy flying much.

I have visited many states in the United States due

SEE SHAKING ON PAGE 3



Calantha and her family

Teens can make a difference

MADISON TAYLOR,
SOPHOMORE, SOUTH KOREA

Teens today are the leaders of tomorrow! As a teen, creating a better tomorrow for not only myself, but for future generations is important. While we may not be able to vote, buy lottery tickets, or adopt pets we CAN and DO lead the charge and ignite the flames in hearts and minds. These two things promote change in our society.

Being a teen today seems much like an expertly executed juggling act.

We find time to actively volunteer in our communities, get involved in extracurricular activities, focus on academics, all while making lasting memories and healthy relationships with family and friends. It is because of this juggling act that we are uniquely equipped to make a difference. We have learned early on that we are fully capable of handling the struggles of everyday life and flourishing in spite of them.

Even on a small scale, getting involved in our community allows us to find our voice. Speaking your truth and making a stand for what is just and right has a positive impact on those around you. When we speak knowledgeable and intelligently on the issues that impact us, we make a difference. It is important for teens worldwide to know that they do not have to be a politician, celebrity or professional athlete to make a difference.

Technology and social media play a large part in today's society. Nearly 80% of Americans have social media, whether it be Instagram, Facebook, or a personal blog. These platforms, along with others, provide a stage for us to speak our minds



Madison

KIDS, TELL US YOUR STORY!

Check out more
military children stories at:
militarychild.stripes.com

Send your Month of the
Military Child submission to
MilitaryChild@stripes.com
by April 30!

From Germany to Korea

HENRI LANE,
SOUTH KOREA

So, you said you have news, mom?" I asked. We were sitting around the dinner table one night when I asked that question. My mom had said that she had big news but had been stalling to tell us.

"Yea, Mom, what's the big news?" My little brother Elija asked.

"We don't have to talk about it just yet," she said. That just made us kids more suspicious. Something wasn't right. Normally when big news came to our house, we were all happy about it.

"Ok, fine, I will tell you," she said. We all leaned in closer to hear: "I know we just moved here, and you are all happy..." We all waited. "...But we are

moving."

I sat there trying to translate what she said. Moving? Did she say moving? Impossible, we just moved here a year ago!

"It's true, we are moving," my dad said. At that moment my brother Ezo burst into tears.

"WHY ARE WE MOVING?!" he yelled.

"Better question, WHERE are we moving?" I asked.

"Um, well, first, out of this country," my dad said. I had lived in Germany ever since first grade. We first started in Ansbach, where I made some really good friends. I stayed there till third grade. Then, they closed down our school.

The only school still open in Ansbach was small

SEE GERMANY ON PAGE 2

SEE DIFFERENCE ON PAGE 3

Read more from military children every Thursday in April

Celebrating Month of the Military Child



What a great life!

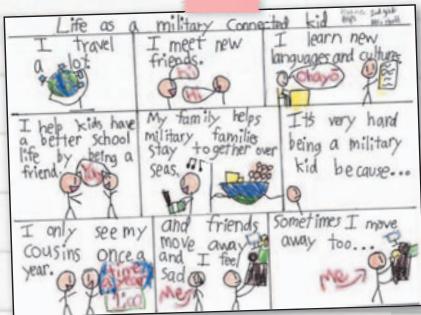
I love being a military child. I meet new friends like Sarah, Allyanna, Mana'i, Adison and other friends. I also learn new cultures, eat new foods like hot dogs and learn new languages like Greek. I also get to go to great schools like McCool school and Tolomocky school. All in all, I love being a military child. Do you?

- Caroline Woods
2nd grade, Guam



Jacky-Bonham, 2nd grade, Okinawa

Check out more
military children stories at:
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Roane, 2nd grade, Okinawa

Who we are

Being a military child means
We are strong,
we are proud,
We can be rowdy
and be loud.
We will always awe a crowd.
Military kids ROCK!

- Isabelle Taylor,
South Korea

GERMANY: Hard for me to say goodbye to my friends

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and couldn't hold many people. That's why most of the students moved away. We were lucky, and we got to stay in Germany. We moved 40 minutes away to a base called Grafenwier, and we went to school in Netzenburg.

"So, again, I'll ask, where are we moving?" I piped up.

"Well we are moving to Korea," mom said. Korea?

Is that near the crazy guy playing with the nukes?

I made some good friends in Netzenburg, and I definitely didn't want to leave them. My best friend was Christoph Wright. He was in the same fourth grade class and was also new to the school. A couple weeks into school, I made a new friend, David. Ironically, he had moved from Korea.

"It's ok guys," my dad said.

The next day, I told my friends.

"So, you are moving?" My friend David asked. I nodded.

"Don't worry" Christoph said. I nodded again.

"What's it like there, in Korea?" I asked David. He thought for a while.

"Well, it's really hot in the summer and really cold in the winter. There are a lot of rice farms and chili farms." I nodded.

"I'm going to miss you guys," I said.

"Yes, we are going to miss you, too," they said.

As the school year ended, moving day was near. The day they packed up my house came and went. Isn't it eerie seeing your house completely empty? For me, it is. I had to say goodbye to David.

We moved into a hotel. I still talked to my friends, and two days before I left Germany,

forever, I went to Christoph's house. We talked about how we would stay in touch and played around for the last time. It was kinda hard for me to say goodbye, but I did.

"See ya around, buddy."

"Adios, Friend."

"The adventure is over."

I left his house thinking about what he'll be doing when I'm in Korea.

The night before we moved, my brother was crying nonstop. I just sat in my bed, remembering and already missing my friends. My parents were still trying to tell us this was a "good thing."

I didn't know what to think, only to miss my friends. I was too anxious to sleep, so I read instead. We left early the next morning. I was thinking two things: One, that I'm terrified of flying and thinking of one hundred ways the flight could go wrong, and two, the memories of Germany, especially my friends.

Celebrating Month of the Military Child

SHAKING: Exploring the world

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to road trips to move from one Army post to another or just to have a little adventure with the family. I have met many people along the way from really welcoming Southerners and Midwesterners in Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Missouri, Kansas, etcetera to stuck-up North Easterners in New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. When I lived in New York, I remember visiting the Statue of Liberty after taking a ferry across the waters of Jersey City, New Jersey and the fake Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas. Living in the United States was one of my favorite times of my life, but I enjoyed Europe much more.

Now I have the opportunity to live in Okinawa, Japan. This is my first time living in Asia and I have to say I enjoy a great deal. It was a culture shock to say the least but I have adapted. The beaches and nice weather are my favorite parts of Okinawa. I have never lived somewhere where it's warm almost all year long. I have lived and visited so many places around the globe, but I still have not seen all of it and I really want to. I can't wait to explore more of the world and encounter more cultures and people of this earth.

Send your Month of the Military Child submission to MilitaryChild@stripes.com by April 30!



Courtesy photo

DIFFERENCE: Voice your opinions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and have our voices heard. Together, with passion and commitment, we can create a movement of change. We can make a difference through activism, through volunteerism, and through communication. We can use social media and other technology to find areas we are interested in getting involved with. We will inspire them, and supply them with a voice for the world to hear.

In our military communities, we are surrounded by men and women that personify bravery and integrity. As military youth we need to remember that we are strong as individuals, but are stronger together. Our words and our actions can make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Find a cause that you are passionate about and get involved. No matter how small, you have to start somewhere, so start today! Voice your opinions, make a difference, start a movement, we have to change the world while we can before it passes us by. We are the voice of tomorrow!

Editor's Note: Madison was nominated to compete against other teens across Asia for the Boys and Girls Club of America's Youth of the Year.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

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Celebrating Month of the Military Child

Life as a military child is fun, but also difficult. For one it is cool to see all the places in the world. A bad thing is I must move away from my friends like William and Frank. I love to see new places and meet new people. Sometimes I miss my family, but I know I will see them in the summer. It is hard to fly back for an event like someone getting married. When I live on a base, I feel safe because I know that the police are just around the corner. Another good thing is I can go out and play without an adult. Sometimes a family member comes and visits. I love to go to the Disneyland with my friends. Some bad things are we don't get many things that they have in the states, like Walmart and Target. Being a military child is fun and bad, but I make the most with what I have.

- Aidan Coffman,
5th grade, Japan

My military friends are the best. I like the love and care they give to us. Life as a military child is hard but we can face it. I in a wonderful air force base we live in. The hard work the military does for us. America the BEAUTIFUL! Red, white, and blue is on our flag. You fight for our freedom, dear military members.

- Erika,
5th grade, Japan

Sacrifice, change, difference, happiness, love. I'm a military kid and this is pretty much how the cycle works. My name is Libby Winkler and I'm only 11. I have lived in over 5 places, gone to over 5 schools, and have been through almost all fifty states.

Being a military kid, you have to sacrifice a lot. You have to leave all your friends and family and pretty much everything you know and move to a new place. Although you might think this sounds bad, you learn so much and make so many friends! Being a military kid is great. You travel to so many places and in fact my family and I are currently stationed in Tokyo, Japan.

One of the reasons I love being a military kid is knowing that my parents do so much to serve our country. I also love it because you get to learn and see so many things that a regular kid might not. You get to experience awesome things everywhere you move. For example I've climbed Mt. Fuji and I have also been to Australia, most 11 year olds can't say they've done that. Things change everywhere you go. Different friends, different house, different schools, different location, and a different culture. It's all different but it's great. Times can be difficult though, sometimes your family is on the other side of the world. Sometimes your parents deploy and you can't see them for a long time. Or you move to a new school and everyone has been in the same class since kindergarten.

Sometimes you might not fit into a new society but there's always someone who would enjoy spending time with you. Probably another military kid. Being a military kid is great! Some love it and some don't. But I think it's truly awesome!

- Libby Winkler,
5th grade, Japan

Hi my name is Ava Ruiz. I was born like being a military child because The last time we moved, I had to leave seven years in New Jersey. There are times when I get to see new places, try new foods, see more dogs, and most of all make new friends. I like to make new friends, but I miss my old friends. It is also really hard being a military child. When we move I have to go on an airplane. When it comes time to leave, I get really sad. Now I am in Japan and it is beautiful here, especially the cherry blossoms!

- Ava Ruiz,
5th grade, Japan



Green, Beige, and Tan. These are colors I see every day. Well, most of the time. Now let me properly introduce myself. My name is Kate, and I am a military kid. I know, I know, being a military kid can be hard! Here's the crazy part. You also are surprised too! I know I would be surprised too. My dad is in the Air Force. He's very brave. When I lived in Texas my dad was gone overseas. Being a military kid comes with its struggles. Believe me, I know. Whether your dad or mom is out on the battlefield, or in a plane fighting for their lives, they are always thinking of you.

Let's talk about what I like about being a military kid

1. Get to see new places
2. I shook the President's hand.
3. Get to make new friends
4. Get to try new foods

- Josiah,
5th grade, Japan

My name is Josiah. I was born in San Antonio, Texas in August 2009. I like being a military child, because I can see the world. I will give you three reasons why. My first reason is that we can visit my family, and have a lot of fun. My second reason is we can learn different cultures around the world and eating their local food. My last reason is I can see my mom after school, and my great grandpa. He was born before me but a different year. Now I will give you three reasons why I do not like the military. My first reason is when we leave family behind in the states. My second reason is that we can not eat pho, my favorite food. My last reason is we can not see our best friends. And I like being a military child.

- Josiah,
3rd grade, Okinawa

Children have their say

I like being a military kid because I get to meet new friends. Another thing I like about being a military kid is that we can play a lot of sports. But one thing I don't like about being a military kid is that we have to move away from friends. The worst thing about moving is packing. Packing is horrid, because things are so heavy and easy to break. However, the cool thing about moving is that you get to learn about a different culture. Another thing that is good about moving is that you get to learn new languages. So you know why I like moving, and why I don't like moving.

- Jacob Sjorj,
5th grade, Japan



Hello! My name is Nalu. I am 8 years old. I've been to a lot of places, like Guam, Hawaii and Okinawa. I make new friends everywhere I go, but it is sad that I need to leave my friends behind when we move.

I love playing basketball with my friends. I have gone to 3 schools. The schools are Anderson Elementary School, Kaduna Elementary School and my last school I forgot because that was 3 or 4 years ago. My favorite colors are blue and green. I love ice cream because it is so cold. It is awesome being a military child!

- Nalu,
3rd grade, Okinawa

There are many advantages and disadvantages of being a military child. I'm going to tell you the advantages and disadvantages of being a military child. A disadvantage is when your parent have to work late hours and you won't see them until the next morning. Take it from me it's not fun being in the house with only your siblings or even just you scary huh? Another one is when your parent gets deployed to somewhere else. And you have to stay with someone else which I really don't like.

Now I'm going to tell you some advantages. An advantage of being a military child is if you live on post you have stores you can play sports and go to school which is surprisingly fun you also have places for kids like the new px, commissary, gym the px is where you can buy clothing a house products. And we also have shoppettes, that you can go to for snacks or little foods for less.

Some other advantages of being a military child is that you have more education connections to the army because the army has many scholarships to different schools when I grow up I wanna go to Emory, a college in atlanta. It is an A plus school that's good. My sister isn't going to college by the way she's acting I don't want to be like her I want to be better.

I want to go to school to be a doctor I was gonna join the army but I see what my aunt has to go through. She's almost late every single day to pick her son up because she's stuck at the office. Since I know one of her friends I have to call her to pick me up sometimes.

So, to wrap things up, there are ups and downs to being a military child. You have parts that you don't like and you do like, but you know that your parents do this for our country and because they love us.

- Aniya Ardoin,
South Korea

Read more from military children every Thursday in April

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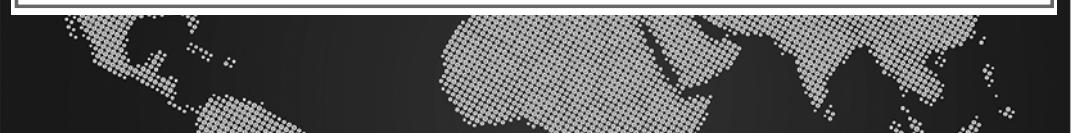
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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher

Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
terry.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Eric Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.eric@stripes.com

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com

Washington
Josephine Cacchiali, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchiali.josephine@stripes.com
(+1)202761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com
(+49)0631.3615.9150; DSN (314)583.9150

Europe

Van Rowell, rowell.van@stripes.com
(+49)0631.3615.9111; DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mari Mori, customercare@stripes.com
(+81-3)6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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BY ANDREW MALCOLM
Special to McClatchy

The nation's convulsion of conscience after each modern mass shooting has become eerily predictable. Thoughts and prayers. Flowers on the sidewalk. Teary memorial services.

And cries — sometimes very loud, large ones — followed by the recent Florida school shooting — to do something about firearms. All this to ignite a national conversation.

Because Americans do not listen to each other anymore, it becomes instead a pointless national argument, stoked by those benefiting from public strife, including media.

And as much as proponents on all sides may genuinely believe their case, history reveals very little of substance ever results from such convulsions, even in election years, as passions and pains subside. Where are all those changes Sandy Hook would provoke?

But something serious can be done — must be done — to prevent or reduce these deadly outbursts. We don't need new laws. We need a serious social, legal and education confrontation with the issue of mental health.

That's uncomfortable for sure, the ugly elephant in society's living room. No one talks about a shooter's dangerous mental health until it's too late. Using the cover of political correctness, we recoil from terms like crazy and bananas and avoid the topic entirely. Because having a gun is dangerous. But having a mental illness engenders sympathy that cloaks the danger.

Whatever the words, mentally ill is what they are. In Florida, for example, several someone saw Nikolai Cruz' condition. And if anyone had the courage to say so, those 17 people might not be dead. As well as many other victims before and those yet to come because vocal Americans with

opinions on anything suddenly turn afraid to talk mental health.

We need to treat them humanely, of course, but differently. Because too many innocent people have paid the ultimate price for our reluctance to face the mental health stigma. That's crazy.

The Secret Service, which has a keen professional interest in shooters, has studied mass shootings. A major theme: Mental illness. Do ya think? No same persons walks into a school or church intent on killing as many as possible.

What's surprising is that as a society we haven't seriously picked up on that after all these lethal incidents and established a real system to spot and deal with them before.

Think of the intricate security and profiling system in place to screen and search hundreds of thousands of air passengers daily, almost all of them as innocent as the underwear that gets scanned.

The most recent Secret Service update of 28 shootings with 150 victims found that three-quarters of the shooters had displayed unusual behavior or writings that raised suspicions among others who said or did nothing before it was too late.

Many shooters, especially younger ones, can't help whispering plans to someone. If that's an unconscious ploy to be stopped, all the more reason to detect them.

Two-thirds of shooters had previous signs of mental illness such as paranoia and delusions. And fully a quarter of them had actually been hospitalized or treated with psychiatric drugs.

That's no crime. But if those patients are also targeting neighborhood pets for practice. Posing dreams of homicide. Beating up a girlfriend. That's suspicious.

Devin Kelley had been in trouble for sexual assault, stalking ex-girlfriends, abusing an ex-wife and escaping from a mental ward where he'd been placed for

fracturing his infant stepson's skull.

Yet none of that disqualifying information made it into the database to prevent him from legally acquiring the firearms he used to kill 26 people in a Texas church last November. That doesn't require a law. That requires training.

Parkland school administrators knew of Cruz's behavioral issues so well they expelled him. Local police knew about him from frequent calls. Social workers knew of his troubled life. Mental health counselors too. School friends joked he was a shooter.

They could still pull it off. And police responded by waiting outside the school.

Yes, mental health remains a touchy subject. Better to face it up front, don't you think, as possible prevention rather than later, as a useless explanation for mass murder.

We can argue for empty years over adjusting age limits and other legislation to close gun purchase loopholes or whatever. Fine, go ahead.

But right now we can establish a standardized system for schools, doctors, law enforcement and counselors to safely file confidential reports — and someone to comb the combined data for common patterns that should trip alarms. Remember, this is how the 9/11 hijackers evaded detection — no one saw that all the little pieces actually formed a suspicious pattern.

Potential shooters still have rights, of course. However, so too do school kids, concertgoers, mall shoppers and others going about their lives with a right not to be a target.

These days when we're dumping a successful shooter into a body bag, it's way too late to discover signs of mental illness. And way too late too for all innocent victims in the other body bags.

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s.

Approve Haspel for CIA's top post without delay

By HUGH HEWITT
Special To The Washington Post

While CIA Director Mike Pompeo's confirmation as the next secretary of state looks to be a done deal, whether his deputy, Gina Haspel, will be confirmed as the first female director of "the Agency" is less certain. It ought not to be. It ought not to be a close vote or delayed.

We don't know much about the specifics of Haspel's career, only the outlines. After all, it's the lot of intelligence professionals to succeed privately and fail publicly. But we know she has received one of the agency's highest awards for operational success and we know she has dedicated her adult life to protecting the country, often in far-off, dangerous places and with extraordinary competence over a very long time.

Nevertheless, some very menacing political spear are being sharpened for Haspel. It seems some on the left want to re-litigate the early years of the post-9/11 world. Once again they want to debate "enhanced interrogation techniques," including waterboarding and "dark sites" where suspected terrorists were held when on their way via "rendition" to countries where they would be imprisoned and interrogated further.

Every intelligence professional in every agency who was part of the country's response to 9/11 at the start of the war on terrorism has or her career woven into the complex tapestry of our collective response. The professionals in the intel-

ligence community had to function — and deliver security — when the political leadership couldn't even agree on definitions. Congress and the president were never able to agree on a law detailing what was and was not going to be allowed when terrorists trying to kill Americans were in cells and even as many interrogations were already complete (and many American lives saved). All of that debate took place far above the pay grades of the intelligence community professionals we asked to protect us and who have largely succeeded. Haspel has been one of those professionals for 33 years.

Serious people understand that all young intelligence operators will be watching this proceeding, deciding whether the hard choices they are being asked to make right now in dangerous places with lives on the line are going to be subject to show trials or even decades down the road. If Haspel's nomination is defeated, the message will be clear: Don't take the hard jobs. Play everything safe — for you, though not for the country.

Veteran Democrats such as Dianne Feinstein, of California, one of the longest-tenured members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, must know Haspel and her résumé. Feinstein should be leading a bipartisan group urging Haspel's quick nomination, not only because Haspel is supremely qualified but also because if Haspel is rejected, liberals will probably dislike President Donald Trump's replacement even more.

But California's senior senator faces a tough primary and probably general re-election campaign against "progressive" (i.e., far-left by less liberal states' standards) state Sen. Kevin de León. (California's bizarre "jungle primary" means the top two vote-getters of the primary advance to the November showdown even if both are Democrats.) So Feinstein, who originally said she was undecided on how she would vote on Haspel (even though Haspel has been a "good deputy director") appears to have bowed to pressure from the left; now the senator says she is "very wary" of Haspel's nomination.

That's a bad move politically. Huge numbers of GOP voters in the Golden State are likely to treat the Haspel vote as the measure of Feinstein's genuine "moderate" credentials. If she does the right thing by Haspel and the country, California Republicans will remember in November. If she turns in her "serious on security" badge, why should Republican voters help protect her?

Regardless of Feinstein's political concerns, Senate Democrats should know the president needs the strongest national security team possible heading into the summit with North Korea, as well as standoffs with Russia and accelerating competition with China. The country needs a depoliticized, extremely competent CIA. We need Director Gina Haspel as soon as possible.

Hugh Hewitt, a post-computing columnist, hosts a nationally syndicated radio show and is author of "The Fourth Way: The Conservative Playbook for a Patriotic GOP Majority."

OPINION

Sinclair's 'fake news' script is a slasher flick

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON

When fake news blasts traditional media for being "fake news," how does one respond? Do you shout, *I'm not a* *you are?* Do you ignore the charge? If you don't fight back, are you affirming the fool? If you do, doth thou protest too much?

The risk of doing nothing, of course, is to go crazy, too.

Call me crazy, but when a local news station is required to have its anchor read propaganda created by its master — in this case Sinclair Broadcast Group — it is not to be taken seriously. Indeed, it is to be feared.

Sinclair recently became the news story when it ordered its 193 local television stations across the country to read an identical script on the air denouncing other traditional news organizations as producers of "fake news," an accusation popularized by the fake newsy himself, Donald Trump.

Though many even in the news industry were surprised to learn of Sinclair's existence, the family-owned company has been around since 1971. With stations in 89 markets, it is certainly not new. The company has been quietly consuming small- to medium-sized markets for decades and today controls more local news than any other media organization. Sinclair also has affiliations with all the major alphabet and cable networks. Today, it probably has greater reach than any other single cable or broadcast company.

It's a big deal, in other words. And it's about to get bigger. The company is now poised to expand even further with a pending \$3.9 billion purchase of Tribune Media, which owns 42 other stations, including

some in the largest markets — New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Although Sinclair's "fake news" campaign, which seemed aimed at boosting Trump, caught the media world's attention, the company has long been a content creator of "must-runs" — editorial and other segments that its broadcast family members were expected to add to their daily run of local news. Injecting opinion into millions of homes, pre-packaged and then delivered by stations that have earned their audience's trust, isn't a one-off but is actually a long-standing part of the company's defining template.

It is ironic that in an era when fake news from outside sources (Russia) is a legitimate worry — and while important journalism is being conducted at some of the very institutions Sinclair has chosen to criticize — that this mega-multiplatform media conglomerate is directly imposing its own agenda on unwitting audiences.

The obvious concern should be that once you have hundreds of stations regurgitating the same message to millions of people — how do neutral, third-party entities combat the disinformation?

It's a serious question and it wasn't always thus. Warring media factions where fact and fiction compete for attention is both self-congratulatory and self-defeating. No one wins in the end. Do the media bear some of the blame? Absolutely. Instances of obvious media bias have contributed to the lack of faith that Trump has so masterfully nurtured. But there's a vast difference between editorials and news — or should be — and most traditional news organizations work diligently to protect this essential separation, which is as sacrosanct as that between church and state. Credibility is the only coin of the realm.

Sinclair, by contrast, seems to consider



its news stations, mostly in those markets where Trump is still popular, to be personal editorial outlets. With few exceptions, most Sinclair-owned stations had their anchors read the statement, which, reportedly, made many of them squirm. After all, some of those same anchors no doubt hope someday to move up to larger markets and to some of these traditional "fake news" outlets.

In its defense, Sinclair issued a statement Monday expressing surprise that anyone would object to their trying to remind viewers of their high standards compared to traditional, as well as social, media. The statement referred to a recent Monmouth University survey that found more than 75 percent of Americans believe that

traditional TV and newspaper outlets report "fake news."

This is the real and disheartening danger. How does a free nation remain free without a vibrant Fourth Estate? When a media company as vast and penetrating as Sinclair can claim the moral high road while molding and marshaling public thought essentially against a free press it seems not irrational to fear a future featuring a Soviet-style propagandist state.

There is some good news in all of this, however. The same Monmouth survey found that most Americans still find President Donald Trump to be a less trusted source of information than they do the major cable news outlets. That may be only a pewter lining, but it's something.

Goodbye, art of the deal. Hello, art of the demagogue.

By DAVID VON DREHLE
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's Easter tweets declared that DACA is dead. In the enigmatic manner common to his pronouncements, which appear so adamant one moment only to be forgotten the next, this could mean either of two things:

DACA is dead. Or DACA is not dead.

Let's begin with the first possibility. As we can tell by the spring in Trump's step and his increasing pace of political rallies, it's election season again. Golly, the man loves to campaign. And like any crowd-pleasing performer, he gives his public what they come for. What "Margaritaville" is to a Jimmy Buffett concert, border bashing is to a Trump rally.

Now, as a matter of public policy, DACA doesn't have much to do with the border. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy applies to individuals who took up residence in the United States no later than 2007. They also had to be children at the time of their arrival — meaning the choice to live as undocumented immigrants was out of their hands.

A large majority of Americans agree that these individuals, having grown up in the United States, should be allowed to stay. But for years they have been hostages to an endless back-and-forth in Congress about more controversial immigration issues. Recognizing there was no comprehensive immigration reform in the offing,

DACA plainly has died as a matter of humane public policy, and risen as a lively political football. It's a game the Democrats are just as happy to play as Trump is.

then-President Barack Obama in 2012 ordered the Justice Department to create a protective category — DACA — to defer immigration enforcement actions against the young arrivals indefinitely.

When Trump announced in September that he would rescind DACA rather than defend it against court challenges, he presented the step as a painful one, driven purely by policy considerations. He assured program participants that nothing bad would happen to them.

"I have a great heart for the folks we are talking about, a great love for them," he declared. He predicted he would have little trouble persuading Congress to give them a more durable shield than Obama's arguably unconstitutional executive action.

Those reasonable tones were long gone by the time the Easter Bunny hopped across the White House lawn. (Has anyone checked his papers?) Trump's Twitter blast on Sunday mixed up the DACA issue with a porridge of scarcely related topics, including drugs, a so-called caravan of people walking on a road in Mexico, and the shape-shifting phantom he calls "the Wall." Keep in mind that people involved in the drug trade are not eligible for DACA,

nor are the people walking in Mexico, nor are any people who might be crossing today's pre-Wall border.

DACA plainly has died as a matter of humane public policy, and risen as a lively political football. It's a game the Democrats are just as happy to play as Trump is.

But, but, but: The political game can go on only as long as federal judges continue to shield DACA participants from the consequences of Trump's action. Courts have prevented full implementation of the president's September order. And because the order has been stayed, airwaves and social media have not yet filled with images of thoroughly American young people, raised and educated in the United States, being yanked from their jobs and homes and families to be deported to countries they remember only dimly, if at all.

Suppose the courts were to step aside and allow deportations of DACA participants. There might be a few radical anti-immigration voices in favor of that result, but most Americans would be appalled. Faced with unpopular real-life results of his decision, it's a safe bet Trump would rediscover his "great love" for the "dreamers" and DACA wouldn't stay dead for the long, long time.

other words, the president is free to wave goodbye to the policy precisely because the courts have said — for now — that it isn't going anywhere.

The Founders gave us an independent judicial branch to rein in the executive and legislative branches — that is, to prevent them from doing too much. I wonder what they would think of a case such as this, where the courts are protecting the president and Congress from the consequences of doing too little.

Politics clearly show what the public makes of such posturing and shenanigans. The inability of Washington elected officials to resolve issues, even when the public strongly supports a certain outcome, is a major factor in the collapse of civic confidence.

As one senator put it to me a few weeks ago, at least 70 percent of Americans support protections for childhood arrivals, and at least 70 percent of Americans support more spending on border security. "You would think a functional government could take two 70 percent issues and put them together to make a deal."

Such common sense might apply if Trump and others in Washington were in the solutions business. But it's campaign season again, and we've all learned what that means: The art of the deal gives way to the art of the demagogue.

David Von Drehle writes a twice-weekly column for The Washington Post. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year" and "Triangle: The Fire That Changed America."

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Automotive 140**SELLER BEWARE**

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College baseball

Tuesday's scores

EAST

Boston College at Harvard, ppd.
Husson, 5, UMass-Boston vs. UMass Lowell 1

SOUTH
Astoria, 15, Berea 14, 11 innnings
Campbell, 10, Samford 1
Chowan, 15, Barton 1
Cincinnati, 13, Kentucky at Louisville
Citadel, 12, Georgia Southern 7
Clemson, 15, South Carolina
Covenant at Myrtle Beach (inn.), 14
Cumberlands 5, Midway 2-4
Cumberland (Tenn.) 16, Martin Methodist 16

Davis & Elkins, 3, Salem 2
Duke, 13, Gardner-Webb 1
Elon 13, High Point 9
Florida, 8, Florida Gulf Coast 4
Georgia Southern, 10, 7
Gwinnett at Bethel (Tenn.), 14
Jacksonville, 2, Florida A&M 1
Kennesaw State, 13, Georgia
Kent (Tenn.), 9, Tusculum 5
Lipscomb at UT Martin, 14
Miami (Ohio)-Hamilton at Kentucky St., 14

Middle Tennessee 4, Valparaiso 3
Mississippi State, 13, St. John's 1
N.C. Central, 7, Presbyterian 2

North Carolina 11, South Carolina 3
Notre Dame, 13, Boston College 4
Pikeville at Alice Lloyd, 14

Pittsburgh, 9, Youngstown St. 5
Spelman, 13, Florida A&M (inn.), 14
Tennessee 9, Belmont 2

Transylvania 7,8, Mount St. Joseph 2-6
Troy/Georgia Nazarene 11, Lincoln Memorial 10

Union (Ky.), 7, Tusculum 2
UW-Green Bay, 12, Charlotte 0
UNC-Pembroke 13, St. Augustine's 4

Virginia, 4, Old Dominion 0
Walla Walla, 13, Western Oregon 5
W. Kentucky at Murray St., 14

MIDWEST
Indiana at Ball State, 13
Missouri at Missouri St., 14
Oklahoma at Kansas St., 14
Willamette (Portland) (Md.), 14

SOUTHWEST
Houston Baptist vs. Rio Grande 3

Far West
CS Northridge 10, Pepperdine 4
Stanford 12, Santa Clara 6

Pro soccer

MLS

ESTERN CONFERENCE
New York City FC 4 0 1 13 0 4
Columbus 1 0 1 1 0 0
Atlanta United FC 3 1 0 1 0 9
New England 2 1 1 0 7 6
New York 2 2 0 0 6 5
Montreal 1 1 0 1 0 4
Philadelphia 1 1 0 1 0 4
Orlando City 1 1 0 1 0 4
Toronto FC 1 1 0 1 0 3 2
DC United 0 0 3 0 2 1 0 4
Chicago 1 1 0 1 0 4

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Sporting KC 4 0 1 13 0 4
Vancouver 1 1 1 0 7 6
L.A. Galaxy 2 1 1 0 7 6
Los Angeles FC 2 1 0 1 0 5
Minnesota United 2 0 3 0 6 6
FC Dallas 1 0 1 0 4
Colorado 1 1 0 1 0 4
Houston 1 2 1 1 4 7 6
Real Salt Lake 1 1 0 1 0 4
San Jose 1 2 1 0 3 6 7
Portland 0 0 2 0 2 4 0
Seattle 0 0 2 0 0 0 0

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday, March 30
Toronto FC, 1, Real Salt Lake 1
Saturday, March 31
Orlando City, 3, Philadelphia 3
LA Galaxy 4, Los Angeles FC 3
Vancouver 2, Columbus 1
Portland 1, Real Salt Lake 1
Atlanta United FC 1, Minnesota United 0
New York City FC 2, San Jose 1
New England 1, Sporting Kansas City 1
Sporting Kansas City 1, D.C. United 0
Colorado 3, Philadelphia 0
Montreal 1, Vancouver 1

Friday's game
Montreal at New England
Sporting KC vs. Columbus
Los Angeles FC at Atlanta United FC
San Jose at Philadelphia
Colorado at Portland
Columbus at Chicago
Vancouver at Real Salt Lake
Portland at Orlando City
Sporting Kansas City at LA Galaxy
Wednesday, April 11
Real Salt Lake at New York City FC
Friday, April 13
Orlando City at Philadelphia
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver

College basketball

USA Today Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in the final USA Today men's basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through April 2, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and 1 point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Villanova (32)	36-4	800
2. Michigan	33-8	756
3. Kansas	31-4	747
4. Duke	29-8	669
5. Virginia	31-3	611
6. North Carolina	27-10	550
7. Loyola (Ill.)	32-6	555
8. Xavier	26-9	531
9. Butler	30-7	481
10. Gonzaga	32-5	476
11. Michigan State	30-5	473
12. Virginia Tech	31-6	461
13. West Virginia	26-7	402
14. North Carolina	26-11	394
15. Creighton	26-7	371
16. Tennessee	26-9	287
17. Kentucky	21-11	280
18. Michigan	25-12	221
19. Kansas State	26-9	215
20. Nevada	28-9	201
21. Florida State	26-13	198
22. Houston	27-8	149
23. Auburn	26-8	101
24. Wichita State	25-8	83
Others receiving votes: Syracuse 750; Arizona 650; Boston College 450; St. John's 450; Seton Hall 400; Miami (Fla.) 360; Georgetown 300; Creighton 200.		

USA Today Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in the final 2017-18 USA Today women's basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, final records, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and 1 point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Notre Dame (32)	39-3	800
2. Mississippi State	37-2	754
3. Connecticut	36-3	747
4. Louisville	36-3	706
5. Oregon	33-5	666
6. South Carolina	29-7	590
7. UCLA	28-7	590
8. Oregon State	28-6	567
9. Stanford	32-3	562
10. Texas	28-7	470
11. Texas A&M	26-10	451
12. Florida	24-11	393
13. Stanford	26-7	337
14. Florida State	25-7	337
15. Connecticut	26-8	318
16. N.C. State	26-8	298
17. Tennessee	26-7	298
18. Stanford	26-7	298
19. Georgia	26-7	213
20. Central Michigan	30-5	201
21. Michigan	29-6	195
22. Missouri	24-8	159
23. DePaul	27-8	138
24. South Florida	26-7	138
25. Florida Gulf Coast	31-5	135
Others receiving votes: Syracuse 450; Oklahoma 27, Indiana 25, Marquette 11, Michigan 11, Belmont 10, Mississippi 9, Miami 7, Syracuse 5, Virginia 6, Virginia Tech 5, Villanova 4, LSU 2, Nicholls 2, Little Rock 1.		

College hockey

NCAA Tournament

NORTHEAST REGIONAL

At Worcester, Mass.

First Round

Saturday, March 24

Boston University 3, Cornell 1

Michigan 3, Northeastern 2

Sunday, March 25

Michigan 6, Boston University 3

At Bridgeport, Conn.

First Round

Saturday, March 23

Notre Dame 4, Michigan Tech 3, OT

Providence 1, Clarkson 0

Sunday, March 24

Notre Dame 2, Providence 1

MIDWEST REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 24

Ohio State 2, Penn State 2

Sunday, March 25

Ohio State 5, Michigan 4

At Bridgeport, Conn.

Championship

Saturday, March 24

Minnesota Duluth 2, Minnesota State

Mankato 2, O, 0

Championship

Saturday, March 24

Minnesota Duluth 2, Air Force 1

At St. Paul, Minn.

National Semifinals

Thursday, March 29

Ohio State (26-5-2) vs. Minnesota Duluth (23-16-3)

Notre Dame (27-9-2) vs. Michigan (22-14-3)

National Championship

Saturday, April 7

Semifinal winners

Auto racing

Monster Energy NASCAR Cup schedule and winners

Feb. 11 - x-Advance Auto Parts Clash (Brad Keselowski)

Feb. 15 - x-Car-Am Duel 1 (Ryan Blaney)

Feb. 15 - x-Car-Am Duel 2 (Chase Elliott)

Feb. 18 - Daytona 500 (Austin Dillon)

(Kenny Harvick)

March 4 - Penzillo 400 (Kevin Harvick)

March 11 - TicketGuardian 500 (Kevin Harvick)

March 18 - Auto Club 400 (Martin Truex Jr.)

March 25 - STP 500 (Clint Bowyer)

(Austin Dillon)

April 15 - Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Dale Jarrett)

(Troy Murphy)

April 29 - GEICO 500, Lincoln, Ala. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

May 12 - AAA 400 Drive for Autism, Dothan, Ala. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

May 19 - X-NASCAR All-Star Race, Concord, N.C. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

May 27 - Coca-Cola 500, Concord, N.C. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

June 3 - Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

June 10 - Firekeepers Casino 400, Brooklyn, Mich. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

June 17 - Toyota Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

June 24 - Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

June 30 - South Point 400, Las Vegas (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Sept. 3 - Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Sept. 10 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Sept. 15 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Sept. 22 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Sept. 29 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Sept. 30 - Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Oct. 7 - TIAA Bank 400, Richmond, Va. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Oct. 14 - AAA 400, Darlington, S.C. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Oct. 21 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Oct. 28 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Oct. 25 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Oct. 27 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Oct. 28 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Oct. 29 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Oct. 30 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Oct. 31 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Nov. 3 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Nov. 10 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Nov. 17 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Nov. 24 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Nov. 31 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Dec. 8 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Dec. 15 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Dec. 22 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Dec. 29 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Dec. 30 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Dec. 31 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jan. 7 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jan. 14 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jan. 21 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jan. 28 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Feb. 4 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Feb. 11 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Feb. 18 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Feb. 25 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Mar. 4 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Mar. 11 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Mar. 18 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Mar. 25 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Mar. 32 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

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Apr. 8 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Apr. 15 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Apr. 22 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Apr. 29 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

May 6 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

May 13 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

May 20 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

May 27 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jun. 3 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jun. 10 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jun. 17 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jun. 24 - GoBowling at The Glen, Watsonville, Calif. (Dale Jarrett)

(Dale Jarrett)

Jun.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Boston	79	41	30	8	90	237	239
x-Tampa Bay	80	53	23	4	110	287	228
x-Toronto	80	48	25	7	103	272	228
x-Winnipeg	80	48	25	7	103	272	228
x-Pittsburgh	80	45	29	6	95	263	246
Columbus	80	45	29	6	95	236	221
New Jersey	80	39	34	7	75	227	247
Philadelphia	80	40	26	14	94	242	240
Florida	79	41	30	8	90	237	239
Carolina	80	35	34	11	81	222	250
N.Y. Rangers	80	34	37	9	77	230	261
N.J. Islanders	80	34	37	9	77	230	261
Detroit	80	30	38	12	72	211	247
Montreal	79	38	13	13	69	203	257
Ottawa	79	35	41	12	65	195	260
Buffalo	80	35	41	12	65	195	262

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Nashville	79	41	30	8	90	217	212
x-Winnipeg	80	50	20	10	111	271	216
x-Vegas	80	51	22	7	103	268	217
x-Minnesota	80	36	34	10	78	210	245
x-San Jose	80	44	26	10	96	227	258
Los Angeles	80	44	28	8	95	232	231
Anaheim	80	42	29	9	93	250	212
St. Louis	79	43	30	6	92	217	212
Toronto	80	41	31	8	90	228	250
Calgary	80	36	34	10	78	210	245
Edmonton	80	37	37	6	74	216	245
Vancouver	80	30	44	6	64	227	258
Arizona	80	31	43	10	70	212	258
St. Louis	79	43	30	6	92	217	212
Two points for a win, one point in each overtime loss. Top three teams in each division advance to playoffs.							

x-clinched playoff spot

Monday's games

	Toronto	5	Buffalo	2	Florida	3	Carolina	2	Montreal	5	Minnesota	3	Edmonton	0	Los Angeles	1	Colorado	1
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Tuesday's games

	Columbus	5	Detroit	4	OT	4	New Jersey	5	Philadelphia	4	N.Y. Islanders	3	Florida	2	Montreal	1	Los Angeles	1
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Wednesday's games

	Columbus	5	Detroit	4	OT	4	New Jersey	5	Philadelphia	4	N.Y. Islanders	3	Florida	2	Montreal	1	Los Angeles	1
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Thursday's games

	Tampa Bay	5	Carolina	4	OT	4	Florida	5	Philadelphia	4	N.Y. Islanders	3	Florida	2	Montreal	1	Los Angeles	1
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Friday's games

	Ottawa	5	Pittsburgh	4	OT	4	Tampa Bay	5	Carolina	4	Florida	3	Philadelphia	2	N.Y. Islanders	1	Los Angeles	1
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Saturday's games

	Tampa Bay	5	Carolina	4	OT	4	Tampa Bay	5	Carolina	4	Florida	3	Philadelphia	2	N.Y. Islanders	1	Los Angeles	1
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Sunday's games

	Tampa Bay	5	Carolina	4	OT	4	Tampa Bay	5	Carolina	4	Florida	3	Philadelphia	2	N.Y. Islanders	1	Los Angeles	1
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Tuesday

	Devils	5	Rangers	2	OT	2	Devils	5	Rangers	2	OT	2	Devils	5	Rangers	2	OT	2
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Wednesday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Thursday

	Devils	5	Rangers	2	OT	2	Devils	5	Rangers	2	OT	2	Devils	5	Rangers	2	OT	2
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Friday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Saturday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Sunday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Monday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Tuesday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Wednesday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Thursday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Friday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3
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Saturday

	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3	N.Y. Rangers	3	2	1	2	3

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MLB

Freeman leads Braves by Nats

Washington suffers its first loss

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves have reason to be encouraged about their offense, even with two starters on the disabled list and top prospect Ronald Acuña's debut probably at least two weeks away.

Freddie Freeman and Preston Tucker each hit a three-run homer, and Atlanta handed Washington its first loss with a 13-6 victory over Bryce Harper and the Nationals on Tuesday night.

Third baseman Johan Camargo and catcher Tyler Flowers are on the disabled list, but the Braves' 41 runs through five games is the team's best offensive start since 2006. The Braves' 56 hits are tied with the 2008 team for the Atlanta record through five games.

"It's early but I kind of like how we're going about it right now," manager Brian Snitker said.

The 20-year-old Acuña will open the season at Triple-A Gwinnett after hitting .432 in spring

training. Tucker, expected to be a short-term starter in left field, is hitting .421.

Freeman and Tucker each delivered a big blow as Atlanta scored four times in each of the first two innings. Tucker's drive in the first against A.J. Cole reached the restaurant behind the right-field seats, and Freeman cleared the wall in right-center in the second.

Washington's three-run first inning marked the fifth straight game the Nationals handed a lead to their starting pitcher. But Cole (0-1) allowed 10 runs and 10 hits in 3 1/3 innings, perhaps endangering his hold on the No. 5 spot in the rotation.

"I'm trying to go out there and show them I can compete ... and I'm trying to help our bullpen as well," Cole said.

Manager Dave Martinez said he told Cole "to keep his head up — and nice home run."

Ryan Zimmerman hit a two-run homer in the first for Washington, and Cole added his first career



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

The Braves' Freddie Freeman follows through on a three-run home run during the second inning of Tuesday's game against the Washington Nationals in Atlanta.

homer in the second. Leading off the third, Harper continued his hot streak with his fourth homer in the last three games.

Atlanta ace Julio Teheran was charged with five runs in 2 1/2 innings, ending his streak of 19

consecutive scoreless innings against Washington. The right-hander threw 89 mph fastballs on the homers hit by Zimmerman and Cole.

Shane Carle (1-1) allowed only one hit in 3 1/3 scoreless innings in

relief of Teheran.

Ozzie Albies had three hits and scored three times for Atlanta, which lost 8-1 in the series opener Monday. Freeman added a run-scoring single off Enny Romero in the fifth.

Roundup

Ohtani hits first homer as Angels wallop Indians

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Shohei Ohtani hit his first major league home run in his first Angel Stadium at-bat, helping the Los Angeles Angels beat the Cleveland Indians 13-2 on Tuesday night.

Ohtani capped a six-run first inning with a three-run drive to center off Josh Tomlin (0-1). The Japanese two-way player got the silent treatment from teammates when he returned to the dugout, but not from the crowd. After players broke character and jumped around Ohtani to celebrate, Mike Trout pointed to the field and instructed Ohtani to take a curtain call.

Trot, Justin Upton, Luis Valbuena and Rene Rivera also homered for the Angels, who broke a 12-game losing streak to the Indians. Garrett Richards (1-0) got the win.

José Ramírez hit a two-run home run in the first for the Indians.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 4: Christian Yelich and Ryan Braun hit consecutive homers off Dominic Leone with two out in the ninth, sending host Milwaukee past St. Louis.

Leone (0-1) retired the first two batters, but then lost Yelich on a 2-2 pitch before Braun whacked the next one for his fourth career game-ending homer.

Astros 10, Orioles 6: Josh Reddick hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and a grand slam in host Houston's five-run win.

Reddick, who was 1-for-11 this season before his homer in the sixth, tied a career high with six RBIs. It was his first multi-



JAE C. HONG/AP

Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani rounds the bases after hitting a three-run home run during the first inning of Tuesday's game against the Cleveland Indians in Anaheim, Calif.

home run since 2014 and No. 7 overall.

Yankees 11, Rays 4: Didi Gregorius hit a pair of three-run homers and drove in a career-high eight runs, and New York won Aaron Boone's chilly first home opener as manager.

Gregorius had four hits and walked, setting a major league record for RBS by a player in a home opener. He also set a Yankees record for RBS by a shortstop.

Padres 8, Rockies 4: Rookie Christian Villanueva hit three impressive home runs and drove in five runs, and host San Diego became the last team to get its first victory of 2018.

The 26-year-old Villanueva joined Hunter Renfroe as the only Padres rookies to hit three homers in a game.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 1: Host Arizona's Daniel Descalso and David Peralta became the first left-handed teammates to homer off Los Angeles ace Clayton Kershaw in the same game.

It's just the fourth time Kershaw (0-2) has allowed two homers to left-handed hitters in the same game — the previous were multihomer efforts by Washington's Adam Dunn, Colorado's Carlos Gonzalez and Cincinnati's Jay Bruce.

Red Sox 4, Marlins 2 (13): Hanley Ramírez hit a two-run double with two out in the 13th inning, and another night of stingy pitching helped visiting Boston extend its winning streak to five games.

Mookie Betts singled with one out in the 13th off Tayron Guerrero (0-1) and advanced on a groundout. Following an intentional walk to Andrew Benintendi, Ramírez lined his third extra-base hit of the season.

Mets 2, Phillies 0: Right-hander Matt Harvey allowed one hit over five sharp innings in his encouraging season debut with New York.

With most seats empty in the 40-degree mist and chill, a healthy-looking Harvey gave the Mets reason to believe he can rebound this year from two terrible seasons interrupted by injury.

Blue Jays 14, White Sox 5: Josh Donaldson and Aledmys Diaz each hit a two-run homer, helping host Toronto to four consecutive victory.

Donaldson went 2-for-4 with three RBIs. Diaz had three hits before leaving after six innings because of back spasms.

Rangers 4, Athletics 1: Ace Cole Hamels struck out 11 in five innings, and Joey Gallo hit his 50th home run in 204 games for visiting Texas.

The Rangers ended a three-game losing streak this season and a nine-game skid at the Coliseum.

Mariners 6, Giants 4: Mitch Haniger hit a two-run single, helping Seattle spoil San Francisco's home opener.

Seattle's Marco Gonzales (1-0) allowed three runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings. Edwin Diaz got three outs for his third save.

Royals 1, Tigers 0: Jake Junis took a shutout into the eighth inning, and visiting Kansas City earned its first victory of the season.

On a chilly, rainy day — with snow a possibility on Wednesday — the Tigers and Royals breezed through nine innings in 2 hours, 17 minutes. Jorge Soler, who still doesn't have a major league hit since July 2, drove in the game's only run with a sacrifice fly in the second.

NBA

Surging Cavs top reeling Raptors

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Once his layup dropped, LeBron James sent another message.

As Cleveland's crowd cheered following his artistic shot, James walked within a few feet of Toronto's bench, pounded his chest several times and screamed, "I'm still a problem!"

The Raptors didn't need any reminders.

James scored 27 points and the Cavaliers continued to gain momentum with the playoffs quickly approaching by beating Toronto 112-106 on Tuesday night.

James added nine rebounds and six assists as the Cavs posted their second win in two weeks over the Eastern Conference's top team, whose lead over second-place Boston remains at two games. This time, the Cavaliers were much healthier than when they beat the Raptors on March 21 despite missing five rotational players and coach Tyronn Lue.

José Calderon added 19 points and Kevin Love 18 points and 15 rebounds for the Cavs, who are 9-1 since March 17.

James still isn't sure what the postseason may bring for Cleveland, which has eliminated Toronto in each of the past two postseasons.

"We don't know what we can become," James said. "We have no idea. But right now we're playing good ball and we want to try to continue that. But we don't know what we can become. We don't have been whole all year."

DeMar DeRozan scored 19 and Jonas Valanciunas 17 for Toronto, which will host Boston on Wednesday. The Raptors didn't quit and scored eight points in 34 seconds before the Cavs put it away with four free throws. Kyle Lowry scored only five on 2-for-11 shooting.

The Raptors are just 3-5 since winning 11 straight from Feb. 26-March 16.

"Right now we've got to find our rhythm on both ends of the floor; whether it's offense or defense," coach Dwane Casey said. "That's slip-slidé away on us. We've got to get that back. We've got five games to go. We've played some of the best teams in the league, but we've got to find our identity and get back to being who we are. We've got a locker room full of fighters."

"We've bounced back the entire year. I have total confidence in those guys that they're going to scratch their way out of it as we go into the playoffs."

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	53	24	.688	2
x-Boston	53	24	.688	2
x-Cleveland	48	30	.615	7 1/2
x-Baltimore	47	31	.574	9
x-Indiana	46	32	.590	9 1/2
x-Miami	42	36	.538	13 1/2
x-Washington	42	36	.538	13 1/2
Milwaukee	42	36	.538	13 1/2
Detroit	37	40	.481	18
Charlotte	34	45	.430	22
Chicago	27	51	.346	28 1/2
New York	27	51	.346	28 1/2
Brooklyn	25	53	.321	30 1/2
Orlando	23	54	.299	32
Atlanta	22	56	.262	33 1/2

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Houston	63	15	.808	0
x-Golden State	57	21	.750	0
x-Portland	48	30	.615	5
Utah	45	33	.577	18
x-San Antonio	45	34	.570	18 1/2
Oklahoma City	44	34	.564	19
New Orleans	43	34	.558	19 1/2

Clippers 113, Spurs 104

SAN ANTONIO — The 2-8-1 5. An-

derson 3-0-1-7, Aldridge 13-21-9-5. Mar-

bury 2-6-2-2, Mills 3-14-7-10. Gay 5-

1-1-1, DeRozan 5-12-10-10. Parker 4-1-1-6.

Forbes 5-0-0-12, Ginobili 6-4-4-4. Totals

39-88-24-28 110.

Spurs — Williams 0-0-0. Harris 11-19-8-9-11, Jordan 3-0-4-2-10. Riv-

ers 5-15-6-18. Wallace 2-9-0-4. Johnson

3-0-0-1-10. DeRozan 5-12-10-10. L

Williams 20-5-5-22. Totals 37-82-43-113.

Clippers — 17 32 23 41-111.

Three-point Goals — San Antonio 8-14.

Dallas 11-18-12-24. Spurs 10-19-4-16. Coo-

lison 6-10-0-16. Aldridge 10-19-4-16. Robin-

son 3-1-0-0. Booker 3-4-2-2. Sabonis 2-1-0-0. Williams 1-0-0-0. Parker 4-1-1-6.

Fouled Out —None. Rebounds —San

Antonio 17 11. Assistants — Antonio 24

(Mills 5), La Clippers 21 (Rivers 5). Total

Fouls — Antonio 29. La Clippers 23.

Turner 17, 44 (19,650).

Wednesday's games

Dallas at Orlando

Portland at Memphis

Miami at Atlanta

Orlando at Boston

Memphis at New Orleans

San Antonio at L.A. Lakers

Thursday's games

Golden State at Denver

Baltimore at Milwaukee

Portland at Houston

Memphis at Cleveland

L.A. Clippers at Utah

Minnesota at Denver

Tuesday

Cavaliers 112, Raptors 106

TORONTO — Anthony 1-3-2-4. Love

6-14-6-18. Green 5-15-17-17. Lowry

2-11-0-5. DeRozan 0-0-1-0. Lue 0-0-0.

Nance 3-2-2-6. Korver 1-3-1-3. Hol-

land 3-0-0-1. Lillard 0-0-0-0. Clarkson

2-0-0-6. Total 38-73-25-104.

Toronto — 24 28 32 26-18-10.

Wednesday's games

Golden State at Indiana

Golden State at Cleveland

Golden State at Milwaukee

Golden State at Portland

Golden State at Houston

Golden State at Boston

Thursday's games

Golden State at Indiana

Golden State at Cleveland

Golden State at Milwaukee

Golden State at Portland

Golden State at Boston

Tuesday

Wednesday's games

Golden State at Indiana

Golden State at Cleveland

Golden State at Milwaukee

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Thursday's games

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Golden State at Portland

Golden State at Boston

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA roundup

Warriors overcome Westbrook's stellar night

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The standings indicated Golden State had nothing to play for Tuesday night.

The Warriors' effort and performance said otherwise.

Kevin Durant scored 34 points while being booed throughout the game, leading Golden State to a 111-107 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The Warriors entered the night locked into the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference standings, but they still wanted to beat a rival that had taken two of the first three meetings this season. Golden State won despite guard Stephen Curry missing his sixth straight game with a left MCL sprain. Guard Andre Iguodala missed the game with left knee soreness and Shaun Livingston was out for personal reasons.

"It was a great win, short-handed and on the road against a good team fighting for playoff position," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's a hell of a win, especially without all our guards."

Russell Westbrook had 44 points and 16 rebounds. He made 15 of 26 field goals and 11 of 12 free throws and had six assists. The Thunder were disappointed that they couldn't support Westbrook's dynamic performance.

"He was great," said Paul George, who scored 20 points. "He was great. He took it to another level — a level that those guys didn't have an answer for. Again, it's frustrating when we see that, we notice that and we can't help him by making shots and putting the ball in the basket."

Klay Thompson scored 20 points for the Warriors and the bench scored 38 points on 18-for-26 shooting. They helped make up for Durant's 2-for-13 shooting in the second half.

Heat 101, Hawks 98: Hassan Whiteside's tip-in with a minute left put Miami up for good, Josh Richardson blocked a potential go-ahead shot in the final seconds and host Miami clinched its 20th playoff spot in 30 seasons by rallying to beat Atlanta.

The Heat trailed 98-90 with less than 3 minutes left, then finished the game an 11-0 run.

Tyler Johnson's three-pointer got Miami within one, and Whiteside tipped in Josh Richardson's miss on the next possession. Atlanta had a chance to take the lead when Damion Lee got into the lane and tried a 10-footer with about 5 seconds left, but Richardson blocked it and the Heat controlled the rebound.

Rockets 120, Wizards 104: James Harden had 38 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, leading host Houston over Washington.

At 63-15, the Rockets have already clinched home-court advantage throughout the playoffs, but weren't interested in losing any momentum against Washington.

Clint Capela had 21 points and 10 rebounds for Houston, while Gerald Green had 16 points off the bench.

76ers 121, Nets 95: J.J. Redick scored 19 points and Ben Simmons had 15 points and 12 rebounds to lead host Philadelphia to its 11th straight victory.

The 76ers are headed to the postseason for the first time since 2012 and are vying



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Thunder forward Paul George, right, shoots as Warriors forward Draymond Green defends on Tuesday.

for home-court advantage.

Bucks 106, Celtics 102: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points and had a key block with 53 seconds left, Khris Middleton added 20 points and host Milwaukee held off short-handed Boston.

Jaylen Brown scored 24 points for the Celtics, who had their six-game winning streak snapped.

Clippers 113, Spurs 110: Tobias Harris scored 31 points, Lou Williams added 22 and host Los Angeles rallied to beat San Antonio.

Harris made 11 of 19 shots and Williams scored 15 points in the final quarter to spark the Clippers' comeback.

Lamar Aldridge scored 35 points for the Spurs (45-33) who are tied for fourth place in the Western Conference with Utah.

Bulls 120, Hornets 114: Lauri Markkanen scored 24 points and Sean Kilpatrick added 21 off the bench to lead host Chicago over Charlotte.

Justin Holiday had 19 points and Bobby Portis added 16 for Chicago, which has won three straight.

Mavericks 115, Trail Blazers 109: Dennis Smith Jr. scored 18 points, including a highlight-reel dunk to help keep lottery-bound Dallas ahead, delaying visiting Portland's hopes of clinching home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

A hodge-podge lineup kept the Mavericks in front in the fourth quarter, with Maxi Kleber giving them their biggest lead at 104-94 on a three-pointer with 3:13 remaining.

Nuggets 107, Pacers 104: Nikola Jokic scored 30 points, Jamal Murray hit a clutch three-pointer late — his only one of the game — and host Denver received a boost to its playoff hopes by holding off Indiana.

The Nuggets pulled within a half-game of New Orleans for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Victor Oladipo had 25 points for the Pacers, who had their five-game winning streak snapped, but remain fifth in the Eastern Conference.

Jazz 117, Lakers 110: Ricky Rubio scored 31 points on 10-for-15 shooting, added eight assists and six rebounds, and host Utah beat Los Angeles.

Donovan Mitchell added 26 points while Rudy Gobert chipped in 12 points, 16 rebounds and five assists to lead the Jazz to their third straight win.

Suns 97, Kings 94: Josh Jackson scored 18 of his 28 points in the first half and host Phoenix ended a franchise-record 15-game losing streak with a victory over Sacramento.

Magic 97, Knicks 73: Mario Hezonja scored 19 points, James Artis added 16 off the bench, and visiting Orlando beat New York.

Briefly

Pats send Cooks to LA

New England gets first-round pick for deep-threat WR

Associated Press

BOSTON — Tom Brady is losing one of his top receivers, and Jared Goff is getting a speedy new target.

The New England Patriots traded receiver Brandin Cooks to the Rams on Tuesday for Los Angeles' first-round draft pick, the 23rd overall.

The 24-year-old Cooks has 65 catches for 1,082 yards and seven touchdowns in his only season with the Patriots. His receiving stats were second on the defending AFC champions' roster only to tight end Rob Gronkowski, who barely topped Cooks in all three categories.

Cooks' clear chemistry with Brady makes the trade fairly surprising for New England, particularly after the recent departure of another favorite Brady target, Danny Amendola, who signed with the Dolphins.

But the defending NFC West champion Rams made an aggressive offer to secure a potential No. 1 receiver and proven deep threat just three weeks after Sammy Watkins left to join the Kansas City Chiefs in free agency.

After weeks of rumors about the Rams' interest in acquiring star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. from the New York Giants, they managed to find another elite talent at the position. Cooks' speed and versatility should fit in well in coach Sean McVay's schemes as he lines up alongside Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp in the NFL's highest-scoring offense last season.

The trade also appears to be a strategic move on the part of the Patriots: Cooks is entering the fifth year of his rookie contract, and he can become a free agent after the 2018 season.

Canelo-Triple G rematch is off after Alvarez withdraws

LOS ANGELES — The Canelo-Triple G rematch, expected to be the fight of the year, is off.

Canelo Alvarez has withdrawn from

next month's middleweight title bout with Gennady Golovkin, two months after Alvarez twice tested positive for a banned substance.

"I have always been a clean fighter and I always will be a clean fighter," Alvarez said Tuesday during a conference call. "I want to prove without a doubt that I have never intentionally ingested clobutesterol. I have nothing to hide and I want to be open and transparent through this process."

The May 5 fight in Las Vegas was to have been a rematch of the draw they fought last September. But on March 5, Alvarez's promoters, Golden Boy Promotions, announced he twice tested positive for the steroid in February. They blamed contaminated meat, and Alvarez agreed to random drug testing.

It was unlikely the Nevada State Athletic Commission would approve the fight after it temporarily suspended Alvarez, who could face a longer suspension.

Struggling Djokovic announces split with Agassi, Stepanek

Novak Djokovic is done working with Andre Agassi and Rad克 Stepanek after the latest in a series of coaching changes for the 12-time major champion who has gone nearly two full years without winning a Grand Slam title.

Djokovic announced Wednesday on his website that he has split from Agassi after less than a year and from Stepanek after less than six months.

The 30-year-old Serb has lost his past three matches.

"The private relationship with Stepanek will remain great, and Novak has enjoyed working with him and learning from him," the posting on the website says. "He remains grateful and appreciative of all the support he has received from Rad克 during the last period."

The only mention of Agassi comes in the final sentence, which reads simply: "The cooperation between Novak and Andre Agassi has also ended."



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Wide receiver Brandin Cooks was traded by the New England Patriots to the Rams for Los Angeles' first-round draft pick, the 23rd overall on Tuesday.

MASTERS

Green jacket didn't mean major change for Garcia

New father says life was good before first title at Augusta

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

Sergio Garcia is the Masters champion, and he says nothing has changed.

That's not entirely true.

He returns to Augusta National as a husband, having married Angela Akins last summer. He will have a slightly larger entourage with him, most notably a daughter born three weeks ago who will always remind him of the Masters, its beauty and his residency. They named her Azalea.

And he had Tuesday night plans unlike any other as host of the Champions Dinner.

But that's it.

He'll swear by that.

"I feel very proud for being able to win a major, and to win the Masters on top of that," Garcia said. "But you know, like what they all tell me: 'Has it changed your life? I don't think and I don't feel like it has. I'm still doing the same things. ... It's something that until it happens, you don't know what it's going to feel like and what it's going to do to you. But on my regard, I'm happy that I don't feel it has changed me. I don't feel like I'm better than I was before."

That's mainly because all the change took place before he won the Masters.

No one ever had to wait longer — 70 majors as a pro, starting with an 89 in his first round at Carnoustie in the 1999 British Open — to capture that first major. Few others were teased quite like Garcia, whether it was that back-nine battle with Tiger Woods at age 19 or the playoff loss to Padraig Harrington at Carnoustie in 2007.

As the years passed, as gray speckles showed up on his beard, the outlook shifted from when he would win his first major to if it would ever happen.

And then it happened.

His wife always thought their first child should be named on the occasion of his first major, and as Garcia said to the Augusta Chronicle, "I hoped it wasn't Shiminecock," a reference to the U.S. Open course this summer.

"Firethorn" would have been a peculiar choice to name any child, much less a daughter. That's an evergreen shrub and the name of the 15th hole at Augusta National, where Garcia hit an 8-iron that nicked the flag and set up a 12-foot eagle putt to tie for the lead.

Holly is the name for the 18th hole where Garcia holed a 12-foot birdie putt in the playoff to defeat Justin Rose, a moment seared into Masters lore when he crouched on the green in a moment of re-



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Sergio Garcia, left, laughs with Gary Player outside the clubhouse at Augusta National Golf Club on Sunday.

fection and then pounded the turf with his fist in a mixture of joy and redemption.

He settled on Azalea, the flower that so many associate with spring at Augusta National and the Masters.

It's also the name of the 13th hole, where so much changed for the Spaniard.

He's seen Garcia over the last year, inside the ropes when he's competing and outside the ropes when he's speaking freely, to realize he has not changed all that much. The reason he is the Masters champion is all the change that took place before he won.

And that was never clearer than on the 13th hole of the final round.

Tied at the turn, Garcia dropped shots on the 10th and 11th holes, and everyone could feel this Masters slipping away, just like so many other majors. On the part 5 13th, Garcia's tee shot clipped trees along the left and instead of the ball bouncing back toward the fairway, it dropped left on the other side of the Rae's Creek tributary and into a bush. His only choice was to take a penalty drop and punch back to the fairway.

The best he could hope for was par. Rose was in position to make birdie at worst.

But that wasn't the end. That was the beginning, all because Garcia learned to change his outlook from "what now?" to "what's next?"

"Funny enough, most other weeks I would have been thinking: 'Here we go. What's going on?' Obviously, I wasn't happy," Garcia said. "But from there, the most important thing was that I felt calm. That calmness gave me confidence. I was like: 'It's OK. You're doing everything right. You're playing

great. It's your time.'

"I just kept believing."

Both made par, which shifted momentum, and this time the winning putt belonged to Garcia.

No small measure of credit goes to his wife, whom he met when she worked at Golf Channel. She brought positive energy to a talent who had so many negative memories.

"I remember a year before the Masters, being at Augusta with Sergio and talking about particular things that I thought he should work on," she said. "I remember he was talking about how somebody had gotten lucky and he had gotten unlucky. We talked about how you can't control that. You're just wasting your energy. He's gotten so much better than that. In golf, you get bad breaks all the time. And you get good breaks."

His ball could have hit the pin on the 15th and bounced back into the water, like what happened with Woods in 2013.

"And if it had," she said, "I think Sergio would have just accepted it."

Garcia has yet to win another major, and the effort — and disappointment — is no less because he has a green jacket. He returned to Augusta National with more than memories of what can go wrong.

He made peace with the golf course last year during that poignant moment when he crouched on the 18th green. Mostly, he made peace with himself.

"It's something special. It's always an honor to have that in your career," he said of his new status as a major champion. "I want to keep getting better, practicing hard, working hard ... But other than that, it hasn't changed that much. Because I loved my life the way it was before."



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Tiger Woods, left, and Phil Mickelson share a laugh on the 11th tee box while playing a practice round for the Masters on Tuesday.

Bloom: Peaking players build Masters anticipation

FROM BACK PAGE

"I love it. And I know how to play it. Sometimes I don't play it well, but I know how to play it. Me being out there on those greens and hitting putts and being creative, there's no other golf course like it in the world and there's no other golf tournament like it."

"It's literally ... it's a players' heaven."

Can he win? It seems like such an absurd thought considering where Woods was even a year ago.

He told Jack Nicklaus at the Champions Dinner last year how much he was hurting, and Nick Faldo was struck by the negative tone. Woods had fusion surgery on his lower back two weeks later. Then, in another low moment, he was arrested in the early hours of Memorial Day on a DUI charge when Florida police found him asleep behind the wheel of his car.

The image of Woods pumping his fist in that red shirt was replaced by the sunken eyes of his mug shot. Woods attributed it to a bad combination of prescription drugs and sought treatment.

He sure didn't look like a Masters favorite then. He didn't look like one just over six months ago at the Presidents Cup, where as an assistant captain he said he could picture a scenario where he didn't return to competition at all.

Now he has one thing in mind: another green jacket.

"I'm just building toward April," he said.

The biggest obstacle for Woods? So is everyone else.

Adding to the anticipation of the Masters, which starts Thursday, is that all the best players are hitting their stride going into the first major of the year. In the first 12 weeks, 11 players who won on the PGA Tour already were eligible for the Masters.

That list even includes Phil Mickelson, still going strong, as capable as ever to win a fourth Masters and become the oldest champion at age 47. The playoff victory over Justin Thomas in the Mexico Championship was the validation that Lefty needed.

"I needed to get a win before Augusta so I wasn't trying to win for the first time in four-and-a-half years at that event," Mickel-

son said. "This certainly boosts my confidence and gives me a lot of encouragement."

Woods, Thomas, Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy are the betting favorites for this Masters.

Johnson won at Kapalua by eight shots to start the year. Thomas was in a playoff at the Honda Classic with two bold shots, and he holed a wedge from the fairway that got him into the playoff with Mickelson in Mexico. McIlroy birdied five of his last six holes to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Then two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson ended two years without a victory by winning at Riviera and the Match Play.

For McIlroy and Johnson, there is a mixture of pressure and redemption. Three players have a shot at the career Grand Slam this year and it starts with McIlroy at the Masters, who for the fourth year goes to Augusta National needing only a green jacket to compete the greatest collection in golf. Mickelson at the U.S. Open and Jordan Spieth at the PGA Championship will get their opportunities later.

Johnson will make progress simply by teeing off. He was denied that last year after he slipped down the wooden staircase of his rental home in Augusta on the eve of the Masters and had to withdraw with a back injury. He was the clear favorite a year ago, the winner of three straight tournaments.

A man of few thoughts except for the shot ahead of him, Johnson prefers not to dwell on the memories of last year.

"Why? There's nothing you can do about it," he said. "That has nothing to do with anything that is happening now."

Woods, too, is all about moving forward.

Gone, at least for now, are the back problems that kept the starter on the first tee at Augusta National from uttering four words that golf fans long to hear: "Fore, please, Tiger Woods."

For those who felt as though the Masters could not get here soon enough, Woods was right there with them.

"Very eager," he said with a smile. "I feel like I'm physically able to do it again. And it's going to be a lot of fun."

MASTERS

Top contenders



DUSTIN JOHNSON

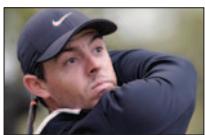
Age: 33
Country: United States
World ranking: 1
Worldwide wins: 17
Majors: U.S. Open (2016).
Masters moment: Slipping down the stairs and landing his back on the eve of the Masters, leading him to withdraw as the No. 1 player and heavy favorite in 2017.

Backspin: He doesn't have nearly the momentum he had last year when he was coming off three straight victories. But he hasn't been awful, either, except for his 0-3 mark at Match Play. He won Kapalua and was runner-up at Pebble Beach. He figured out how to play the course two years ago when he contended for the first time.



BUBBA WATSON

Age: 30
Country: United States
World ranking: 23
Worldwide wins: 12
Majors: Masters (2012, 2014).
Masters moment: Hooking a gap wedge out of the trees on No. 10 to set up a par in a sudden-death playoff for his first Masters victory in 2012.
Backspin: Watson is healthy and happy, and the latter might be more important. He hasn't won twice going into the Masters, and he looked impressive in victories at Riviera and Match Play. A good putting week is especially important for him.



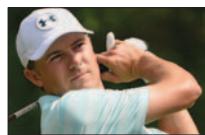
RORY McILROY

Age: 28
Country: Northern Ireland
World ranking: 7
Worldwide wins: 22
Majors: U.S. Open (2011), British Open (2014), PGA Championship (2012, 2014).
Masters moment: Losing a four-shot lead in the final round of 2011 and shooting 80.
Backspin: This will be his fourth crack at trying to complete the career Grand Slam. He hasn't seriously contended since 2011. He won the Arnold Palmer Invitational three weeks before the Masters, which has given him a shot of confidence.



TIGER WOODS

Age: 42
Country: United States
World ranking: 104
Worldwide wins: 90
Majors: Masters (1997, 2001, 2002, 2005), U.S. Open (2000, 2002, 2008), British Open (2000, 2005, 2006), PGA Championship (1999, 2000, 2006, 2007).
Masters moment: Setting or tying 20 records in his first Masters victory by 12 shots in 1997.
Backspin: Woods has missed the Masters three of the last four years because of back surgeries. The Masters is the only major in which he has never missed the cut. If he were to win, the pursuit of Jack Nicklaus, who won 18 majors during his career, is back on.



JORDAN SPIETH

Age: 24
Country: United States
World ranking: 4
Worldwide wins: 14
Majors: Masters (2015), U.S. Open (2015), British Open (2017).
Masters moment: Becoming the only player to reach 19 under at any point in 2015. He wound up tying the 72-hole record held by Woods.
Backspin: Spieth is going through what might be the first slump of his career, mainly with his short game. His best finish this year is ninth at Kapalua and Riviera, and he has yet to finish closer than five shots off the lead. In his previous starts, he has been runner-up twice, won in 2015 and tied for 11th last year.



PHIL MICKELSON

Age: 47
Country: United States
World ranking: 18
Worldwide wins: 46.
Majors: Masters (2004, 2006, 2010), British Open (2013), PGA Championship (2005).
Masters moment: Leaping an estimated 13 inches into the air when he made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole for his first major.

Backspin: Mickelson has a history of playing Augusta well, though he has lost some consistency. In the last five years, he was runner-up to Jordan Spieth in 2015 but finished out of the top 20 the other four times. He has not broken 70 in a major since the 2016 PGA Championship.



JUSTIN THOMAS

Age: 24.
Country: United States.
World ranking: 2.
Worldwide wins: 8.
Majors: PGA Championship (2017).
Masters moment: Earning his first crystal by making eagle on the par-5 13th hole in the fourth round last year.

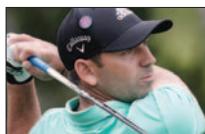
Backspin: He is playing as well as anyone, with a victory in the Honda Classic, a playoff loss in Mexico and a semifinal loss in the Match Play. His first two trips to the Masters have been ordinary. Thomas made the cut both times but has yet to break 70.



JUSTIN ROSE

Age: 37.
Country: England.
World ranking: 5.
Worldwide wins: 19.
Majors: U.S. Open (2013).
Masters moment: Losing in a playoff to Sergio Garcia last year.

Backspin: Rose had three chances to close out a victory last year when he missed putts on the 13th, 17th and 18th holes. It was his second runner-up finish in three years, so he knows the course. His long game is the envy of many. His success lies in making putts on the back nine Sunday.



SERGIO GARCIA

Age: 38.
Country: Spain.
World ranking: 9.
Worldwide wins: 28.
Majors: Masters (2017).
Masters moment: Pounding his fist on the 18th green after making birdie to win in a playoff last year over Justin Rose for his first major.

Backspin: Garcia won 7 majors as a pro before winning his first and hasn't finished in the top 20 since then. He returns to Augusta National as a father, with his wife having given birth to a daughter they named Azalea three weeks ago. Perhaps the confidence of winning will inspire him to another green jacket.



RICKIE FOWLER

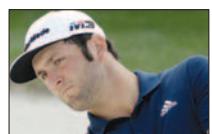
Age: 29
Country: United States.
World ranking: 8.
Worldwide wins: 8.
Majors: None.
Masters moment: Being asked not to turn his cap backward at Augusta National his first year in 2011.

Backspin: Fowler has gone more than a year since his last victory, and he probably doesn't win enough in the first place. He has had two good chances at the Masters. He was two shots behind going into the final round in 2014 and shot 73. He was one shot behind last year and shot 76.



JASON DAY

Age: 30.
Country: Australia.
World ranking: 12.
Worldwide wins: 11.
Majors: PGA Championship (15).
Masters moment: Losing a two-shot lead with three holes to play in 2013.
Backspin: Day's victory at Torrey Pines was enough to make him a factor at the Masters, where he was in the mix on Sunday in 2011 and in 2013. Key for Day is not falling too far behind after the opening round.



JON RAHM

Age: 23.
Country: Spain.
World ranking: 3.
Worldwide wins: 4.
Majors: None.
Masters moment: Being just three shots out of the lead going into the weekend at his first Masters.
Backspin: Rahm figures to be the next Spaniard in a green jacket, though he is not in as good a spot as a year ago. After his 75-77 weekend at Torrey Pines, and the following week in Phoenix when he shot 72, he has not looked as sharp.



TOMMY FLEETWOOD

Age: 27.
Country: England.
World ranking: 11.
Worldwide wins: 5.
Majors: None.
Masters moment: Holing a 40-foot putt in Mexico last year to secure his first trip to the Masters.
Backspin: Fleetwood had a rough debut last year when he shot rounds of 74-78 and was gone by the weekend. He has established himself as one of Europe's premier players with three victories in the last 15 months on the European Tour.



PAUL CASEY

Age: 40.
Country: England.
World ranking: 13.
Worldwide wins: 16.
Majors: None.
Masters moment: Closing with a Sunday-best 67 in 2016 to tie for fourth.
Backspin: He has five top 10s at the Masters, and in only one of those occasions had he won that year to help with his confidence. That's why his victory in the Valspar Championship was significant. Casey won't have many chances left, and this is one course he has played reasonably well.



HENRIK STENSON

Age: 42.
Country: Sweden.
World ranking: 15.
Worldwide wins: 19.
Majors: British Open (2016).
Masters moment: Attended in 1999, saw Jose Maria Olazabal and meant to place a bet but forgot (Olazabal won).
Backspin: He turns 42 on Thursday. He has yet to record a top 10 in his 12 appearances, but his putting has improved. He had a pair of top 10s in the Middle East swing on the European Tour, and he finished fourth from the final group at Bay Hill.

SPORTS



He's a big hit

Angels' Ohtani gets three-run HR in first home at-bat » **Page 26**



Back in bloom

Woods' return to top form against game's best could make this a tournament for the ages

CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/TNS

Tiger Woods walks to the sixth green during a practice round at Augusta National Golf Club on Monday. There is plenty of hype surrounding Woods' first Masters in three years.

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

This Masters is as much about a red shirt as a green jacket.

Tiger Woods is back for only the second time in the last five years, and what makes the sight of him at Augusta National even more tantalizing is that Woods is starting to look like the player who dominated golf for nearly 15 years.

He has power. His short game is sharp. He makes putts.

Never mind that Woods is not ranked among the top 100 players. Or that it has

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- Only change for Garcia is champion status, Page 30

been 13 years since he last won the Masters in that Sunday red shirt, and four years and eight months since he last won any tournament.

The buzz following Woods since his return from a fourth back surgery has been bigger and louder than when he was No.

1 in the world, piling up 79 victories on the PGA Tour and 14 majors. The longer he was away from the game, the more his feats looked even more legendary. And the longer he was gone, the more plausible it was that Woods might never return, at least not at a competitive level.

In his three starts leading up to the Masters, Woods was within one shot of the lead at some point in the final round. His only close call was the Valspar Championship, when he was a 40-foot birdie putt away on the 18th hole for a forcing a playoff.

That prompted Jason Day to say, "For him to come back and win ... I don't think

it's going to be a huge surprise now."

As much as golf has missed the energy he brings to a tournament, Woods has missed golf, especially that first full week in April.

He has been to Augusta National each of the last two years for the Champions Dinners. Just like always, Woods walked up the stairs to the locker room reserved for Masters champions. But there were no clubs. No boxes of golf balls. No need to register. No tee times.

"Very frustrating," Woods said. "Because I love playing Augusta National."

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Pats send Cooks to Rams for 1st-round pick » **Page 29**

